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# 1

## Operation Cactus

Operation Cactus was a swift and precise military intervention by the Indian Armed Forces on November 3-4, 1988, demonstrating India's ability to project power regionally and restore democratic stability in the Maldives, highlighting its strategic importance.

### Political Situation in the Maldives

(a) Since 1978, the Maldives has been led by President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. Although the country seemed stable externally, internal dissent persisted among—

- Exiled Maldivians
- Business rivals
- Disgruntled elites

(b) The coup plotters are a group led by Abdullah Luthufi, a Maldivian dissident. He recruited approximately 200–300 Tamil mercenaries from the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE)

Purpose –

- Overthrow Gayoom
- Install a puppet regime
- Control Maldives for strategic and financial gains

### The Coup Attempt – 3 November 1988

**The early morning invasion:** Mercenaries landed by speedboats from Sri Lanka

#### Key targets seized

- Government buildings
- Radio station
- Airport area

#### President Gayoom

- Fled from the palace.
- Future of Connectivity in India (as envisaged by the ICT Task Force) aims to foster a sense of technological progress and security, emphasizing India's commitment to digital sovereignty and development.
- Gradually established direct military support from India.

## India's Immediate Response

- **Political Decision**
  - Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi
  - India approved the full military intervention within hours.
- **Military Command**

Operation executed by the:

  - Indian Army
  - Indian Air Force
  - Elite parachute unit – 50<sup>th</sup> Independent Parachute Brigade

## Execution of Operation Cactus

### Step 1 – Strategic Airlift

It includes transportation for the IL-76 aircraft and coverage for the paratroopers who flew:

- Over 2,000km non-stop
- From Agra Air Base to Male Airport

### Step 2 – Airborne Assault

Indian forces:

- Landed at Hulhule Airport
- Seized the runway
- Crossed the causeway to Male City.

### Step 3 – Urban Combat and Rescue

Key actions:

- Presidential palace secured
- Government buildings reclaimed
- Mercenaries neutralized
- President Gayoom was safely brought back to power

### Step 4 – Naval Interception

- Fleeing mercenaries attempt to escape by boat toward Sri Lanka.
- Intercepted by the Indian Navy

The result includes most of the captured mercenaries, with the remaining killed at sea.

## Duration and Outcome

- Total Duration: 16 hours
- Casualties: Minimal on the Indian side
- President Saved: Yes
- Coup failed: Completely
- Foreign Mercenaries: Captured or killed

## Operation Cactus – A Strategic Masterstroke

- **Demonstrated India's Rapid Strike Capability:** It revealed that India can intervene within hours from a distance of over 2000 km.
- **Operation Cactus** positioned India as the regional security guarantor in the Indian Ocean, reinforcing its strategic influence and signaling its commitment to maintaining stability and security in South Asia and the broader Indian Ocean region.
- **Strategic Message to External Powers:** It conveys to Pakistan, China, and Western nations that India will not accept hostile regime changes in its maritime neighborhood.

### International Reaction

- The United States praised India's decisive action.
- The United Kingdom provides open diplomatic support.
- Sri Lanka has welcomed the stabilization.
- SAARC nations include India, which has received applause.
- The United Nations has raised no objections.

### Legal and Diplomatic Justification

India justified the intervention by citing the following reasons:

- Official appeal issued by the recognized Maldivian government
- Intervention respected the principles of –
  - Collective Security
  - State Consent
  - Non-aggression

Hence, no violation of international law.

### Long-Term Impact on India-Maldives Relations

The Maldives has emerged as one of India's key maritime partners. This involves extensive collaboration in –

- Coastal surveillance
- Disaster relief
- Military training

It laid the foundation for upcoming initiatives, such as –

- Indian Ocean Security architecture
- SAGAR Doctrine (later years)

### Operation Cactus in Defense and IR Theory

- Realism – Power Projection
- Liberalism – Collective Security

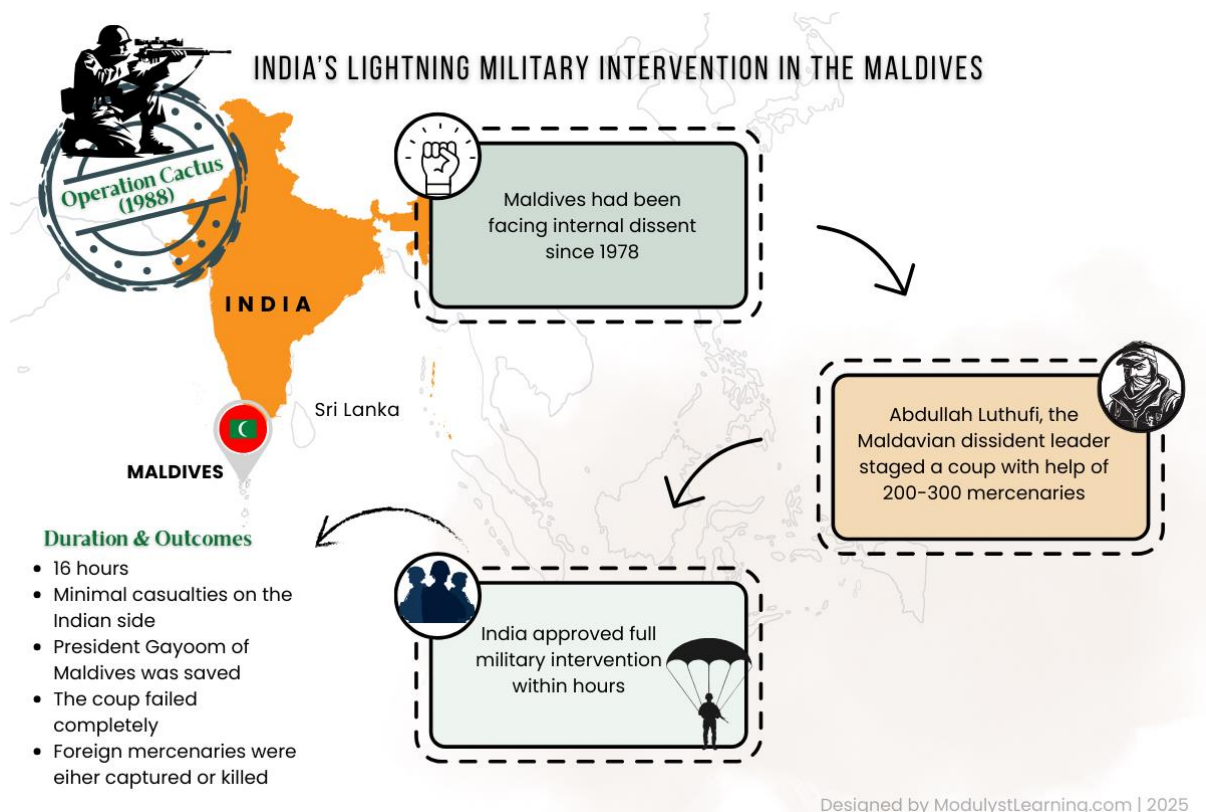
- Deterrence – Prevented future coups
- Maritime Security – Control of SLOCs
- Regional Hegemony – India as a stabilizing force

## Comparison with Other Indian Interventions

- Operation Cactus, 1988, counter-coup
- IPKF, Sri Lanka, 1987, peace enforcement
- Operation Rahat, 2015, evacuation
- Operation Sankat Mochan, 2016, rescue

## In Brief

Operation Cactus (1988) demonstrated India's rapid military action, reinforcing its role as a confident security provider in the Indian Ocean Region and inspiring pride in India's strategic capabilities.



## 2

# India's Disarmament Policy

India's disarmament policy emphasizes consistency, moral leadership rooted in Gandhian ideals, and multilateralism centered on the UN, fostering respect and trust in India's global role.

## Core Philosophy of India's Disarmament Policy

India's disarmament policy is founded on **three core principles**: universal and fair disarmament to oppose selective measures; moral leadership inspired by Gandhian ideals; and safeguarding national security amid regional threats, thereby emphasizing its strategic and ethical stance.

1. **Universal and Fair Disarmament**: India opposes selective disarmament, which allows some states to retain weapons while prohibiting others from doing so. This is the primary reason India opposed the inequities of the NPT.
2. **Moral Ethical Leadership**: It is rooted in –
  - a. Mahatma Gandhi emphasising non-violence (*Ahimsa*)
  - b. Jawaharlal Nehru advocating global nuclear abolition as a moral obligation
3. **National Security First**: Disarmament must not threaten India's security, especially given the hostile environment of the China-Pakistan nuclear alliance.

## Historical Evolution

### Phase I: Idealist-Activist Phase (1947-1964)

- **Key features**
  - Active support for eliminating all nuclear weapons.
  - Leadership in UN disarmament debates
  - Promotion of the peaceful applications of atomic energy.
- **Major initiative**
  - 1954 Nehru Proposal – A global halt on nuclear testing.
- **India at this time had –**
  - No nuclear weapons
  - Strong moral authority

### Phase II: Strategic Reassessment (1964-1998)

- **Turning points**
  - 1964 – China's nuclear test
  - 1974 – India's Peaceful Nuclear Explosion (PNE)
- **India's key objections during this phase**
  - NPT (1968) defines 'rejected' as a category of discrimination.
  - The CTBT (1996) includes provisions that have been rejected.

- These treaties created a system akin to "**nuclear apartheid.**"

### Phase III: Nuclear Weapon State with a Disarmament Commitment (1998-Present)

- **1998 Pokhran II tests**

India declares:

- No First Use (NFU)
- Credible Minimum Deterrence
- Continuous dedication to worldwide disarmament.

### India's Nuclear Doctrine and Disarmament Compliance

- **No First Use (NFU)** – India pledges not to initiate a nuclear attack and will only respond if attacked.
- **Credible minimum deterrence** – India keeps only the essential weapons necessary for deterrence, not for engaging in war or coercion.
- **Civilian political control** involves democratic authorities managing nuclear weapons.

These principles encourage responsible nuclear behavior, opposing the first-use policies of NATO, Pakistan, and other nations.

### India and Major Global Disarmament Treaties

- India's decision not to sign the NPT stems from its view of it as discriminatory, highlighting its commitment to equitable disarmament and its principled stance.
- The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (1996) includes provisions for non-signatories such as India, mainly because it does not specify a fixed disarmament timeline.
- India has ratified and implemented the Chemical Weapons Convention (1993) due to its universal and verifiable nature.
- India ratified the Biological Weapons Convention (1972), supporting a complete ban on biological weapons.
- India ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017, but seems to ignore security realities.

### India's Key Global Disarmament Initiatives

- Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan (1988):** Proposed by Rajiv Gandhi at the UN, this initiative aims for a nuclear-free world by 2010. It includes phased disarmament, universal verification, a global no-first-use policy, and a ban on space weaponization. It is considered the most comprehensive nuclear disarmament proposal to date.
- Global No First Use Treaty:** India has consistently supported a legally binding international NFU agreement.
- Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT):** India endorses the FMCT on the condition that all countries universally adopt it.

## India's Position on Non-Nuclear Disarmament

### Chemical Weapons

- India has completely dismantled its stockpiles following OPCW verification.
- Completely aligned with international standards.

### Biological Weapons

- Strong advocate for legal verification

### Conventional Arms Control

- Supports:
  - Regulations concerning illegal arms trading
  - Anti-landmine cooperation
  - Transparency in UN Arms Trade

## The United Nations' Role in Shaping India's Disarmament Policy

- India has been the founding voice at:
  - The United Nations
  - UN Disarmament Commission
  - First Special Session on Disarmament (1978)
- India consistently promotes:
  - Multilateral negotiations
  - Treaties formed through consensus
  - Equal security for every state.

## India versus Nuclear Apartheid Argument

India strongly argues that **“True disarmament cannot exist where some nations keep nuclear bombs eternally while others are punished for even seeking deterrence.”** It is the main reason for rejecting the NPT and CTBT.

## Contemporary Challenges to India's Disarmament Policy

- China's increasing nuclear arsenal undermines the minimum deterrence balance.
- Pakistan's first use doctrine increases escalation risks.
- The weaponization of space involves a new arms race.
- AI combined with hypersonic weapons destabilizes deterrence.
- Weak global verification suffers from a lack of trust.

India's current disarmament strategy (2025) continues to endorse a step-by-step approach to nuclear reduction, universal abolition, and verification, linking past policies with future goals.

Although India continues to possess nuclear capabilities, it still officially endorses:

- Step-by-step approach to global nuclear reduction
- Universal nuclear abolition

- A robust verification system led by the UN
- Prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS)

India's perspective is "disarmament with security," rather than disarmament that leaves one vulnerable.

## Disarmament Policy versus India's Strategic Autonomy

India maintains:

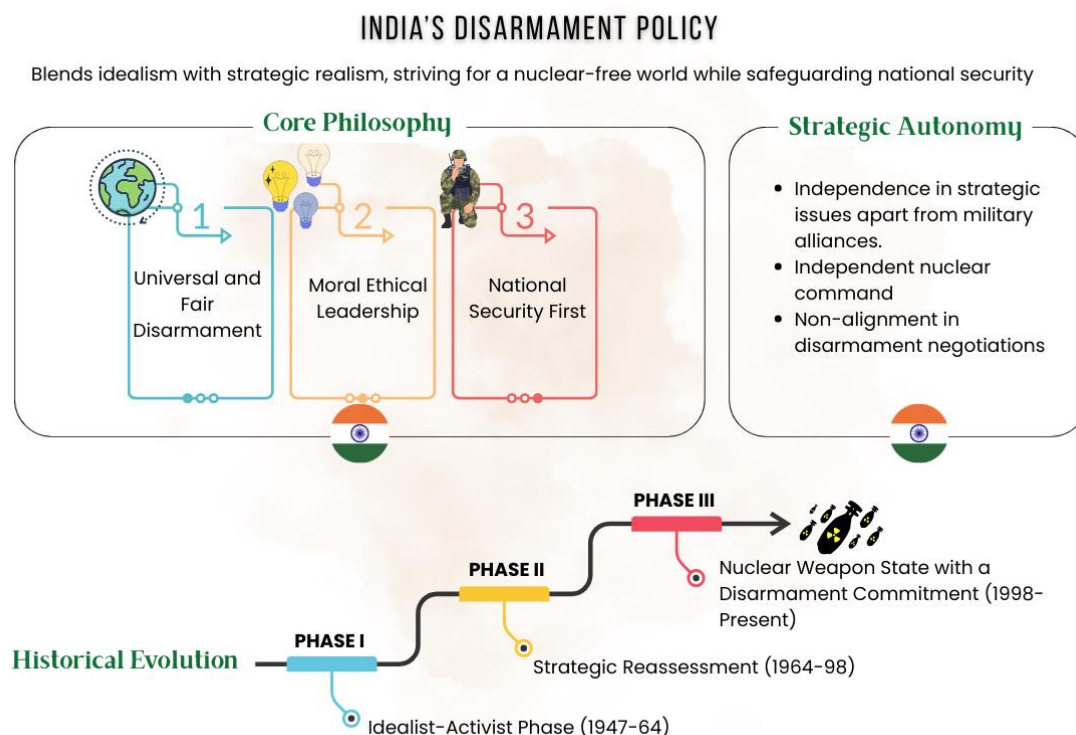
- Independence in strategic issues apart from military alliances.
- Independent nuclear command
- Non-alignment in disarmament negotiations

This enables India to:

- Join the US and NATO alliance.
- The Russia–China alliance preserves its policy independence without sacrificing its principles.

## In Brief

India's disarmament policy blends moral idealism with strategic realism, striving for a nuclear-free world while safeguarding national security. It also promotes universal, verifiable, and non-discriminatory disarmament.



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# 3

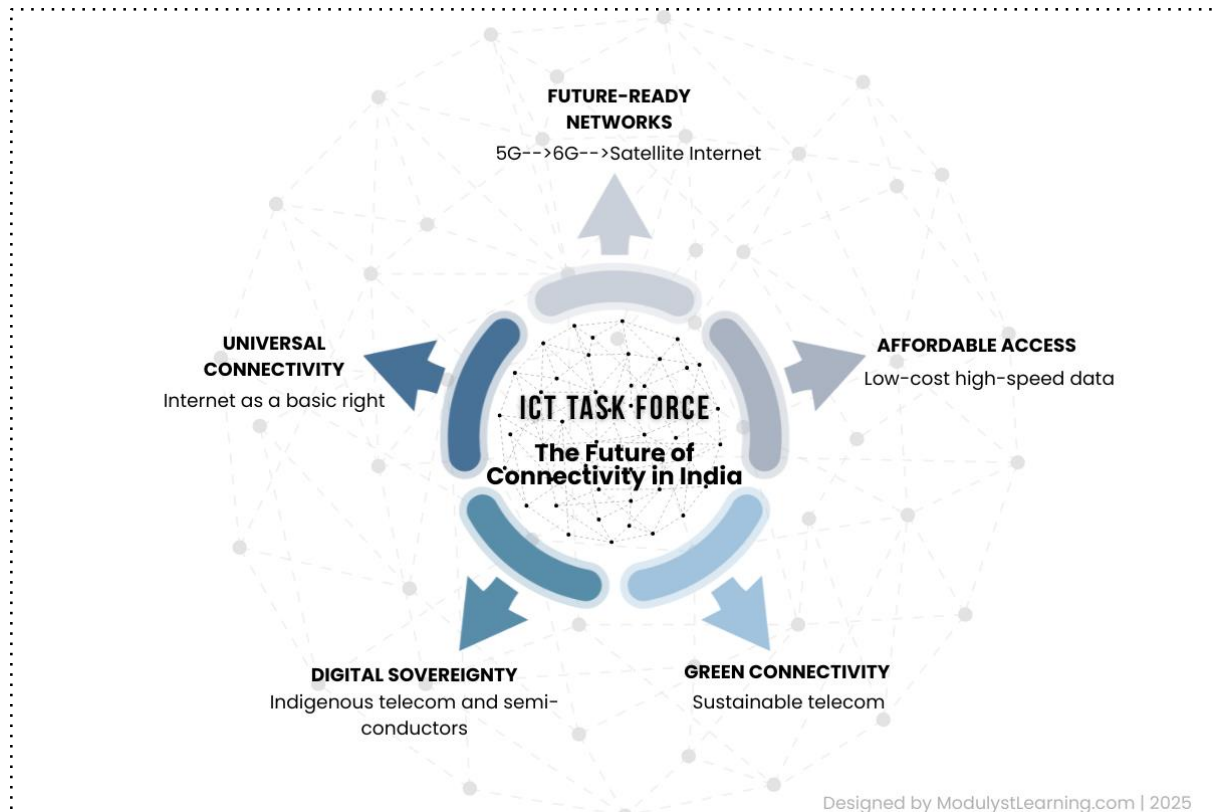
## ICT Task Force

### The Future of Connectivity in India

The ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Task Force is a high-level expert advisory group involving the Government of India through the Department of Telecommunications. Its purpose is to design the long-term strategy for digital connectivity, telecom infrastructure, and emerging communication technologies.

It functions as a strategic brain trust for –

- Telecom reforms
- Rural and Urban Digital Inclusion
- Future-ready communication technologies
- India’s global leadership in digital infrastructure



### Why was the ICT Task Force needed?

India faced five structural challenges:

1. **Digital Divide:** Comparing Internet Access in Urban and Rural Areas
2. **Readiness for 5G and Beyond:** The Importance of an Indigenous Ecosystem
3. **Infrastructure Bottlenecks:** Fiber, towers, spectrum

4. **Cybersecurity threats** are increasing as the digital landscape grows and associated risks multiply.
5. **Dependence** on imported foreign semiconductor and telecommunications equipment.

Therefore, the ICT Task Force was established to coordinate and plan “**future connectivity**” in a comprehensive way.

## Core Vision of the ICT Task Force

- **Universal Connectivity** views Internet access as a fundamental human right.
- **Digital Sovereignty** includes Indigenous telecommunications and semiconductor sectors.
- **Future-Ready Networks** encompass 5G, 6G, and Satellite Internet.
- **Affordable Access** offers low-cost, high-speed data.
- **Green Connectivity** encompasses sustainable telecommunications.

## Critical Focus Areas of the ICT Task Force

- **5G and 6G Development:** Indigenous communities have acknowledged the development of 5G technology.
- **6G Vision 2030**
  - Ultra-low latency
  - AI-driven networks
  - Holographic communication
  - Tactile Internet
- **BharatNet and Rural Broadband**
  - Providing optical fiber connectivity to each Gram Panchayat.
  - Focusing on achieving full digital inclusion in rural areas.
- **Backbone for Critical Development Areas**
  - Telemedicine
  - E-education
  - Digital governance
- **Satellite-Based Connectivity**
  - LEO and MEO satellites
  - Remote regions, border areas, disaster zones
  - Strategic relevance for –
    - National Security
    - Border Infrastructure
- **Make in India for Telecom**
  - Indigenous –
    - Telecom Towers
    - 5G radio
    - Optical fiber equipment
    - Semiconductor fabs
- **Lowering reliance on global suppliers**
- **Cybersecurity and Data Protection**
  - Secure telecom networks
  - Protection against –
    - Cyber Warfare

- Deepfake attacks
  - Data breaches
- **Integration with Policies and Other Frameworks**
  - National Cyber Security Policy
  - Digital Personal Data Protection Act

## Future of Connectivity in India (as envisaged by the ICT Task Force)

- **Hyper Connected Bharat (By 2030)**
  - The entire population is connected.
  - The average speed exceeds international standards.
  - Treat the internet as a basic public utility, comparable to electricity.
- **6G Leadership by 2030**
  - India aims to take a leading position globally rather than follow others, seeking a significant role on the international stage.
  - AI-powered communication
  - Smart factories
  - Real-time holographic meetings
- **Space-based Internet for Strategic Zone**
  - Himalayan States
  - Islands
  - Disaster-prone regions
- **Green Telecom Networks**
  - Solar-powered towers
  - Low-energy networks hardware
  - Carbon-neutral digital infrastructure

## Economic Impact of ICT Task Force Vision

- Startups are experiencing growth in AI, IoT, and SpaceTech sectors.
- Healthcare encompasses telemedicine and robotics.
- Education encompasses virtual classes and AI tutors.
- Governance encompasses real-time digital governance.
- Defense encompasses secure networks on the battlefield.

## Link with Major Indian Digital Initiatives

- Digital India provides the fundamental infrastructure.
- Make in India encompasses the development of indigenous telecom technologies.
- Startup India represents an ecosystem centered on innovation.
- Gati Shakti includes planning for digital infrastructure.
- The National AI Mission encompasses AI-enabled networks.

## Strategic Importance (for IR and Security)

- Lowers reliance on China and the West for cybersecurity.
- Enhances India's control over its digital assets.
- It shows improvement in Border Security, Naval Communication, and Space Surveillance.
- Positions India as a global leader in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

## Challenges Identified by the ICT Task Force

- High infrastructure costs are mainly financial in scope.
- The policy regarding spectrum pricing is regulatory in nature.
- Cyber attacks include security aspects.
- The Skilled Workforce Gap pertains to the Human Resources sector.
- The reliance on semiconductors is a strategic concern.

### In Brief

The ICT Task Force exemplifies India's organized strategy for digital sovereignty, enhanced connectivity, and inclusive digital growth. It aims to develop India into a secure, self-reliant, and globally competitive digital economy.

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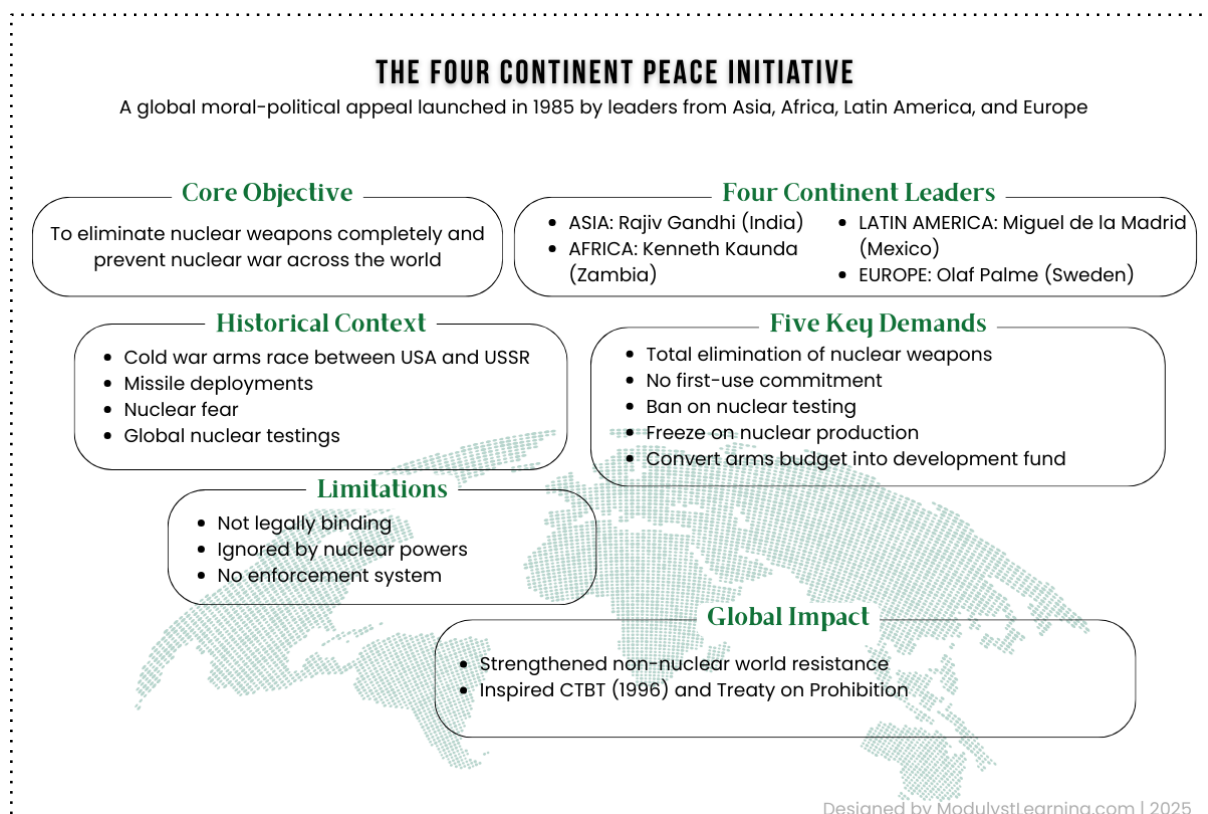
# 4

## Four Continent Peace Initiative

The Four Continent Peace Initiative (FCPI), initiated in 1985 by leaders from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe, called for global nuclear disarmament at a pivotal moment in the Cold War. It embodied a South–South plus ethical international coalition opposing nuclear weapons. This initiative was not a military alliance but a peace-focused, anti-nuclear political movement.

The core objective aims to prevent nuclear war, abolish nuclear weapons, and shift global security from deterrence to disarmament and peace. It is founded on the belief that:

- A nuclear war has the potential to wipe out all of humanity, impacting people across the globe rather than just the nations involved.
- Non-nuclear countries are most likely to be the primary potential victims.
- Nuclear weapons breach humanitarian, moral, and developmental principles.



### Key Leaders and Participating Regions

The four continents depicted:

- Asia – Rajiv Gandhi
- Africa – Kenneth Kauda (Zambia)
- Latin America – Miguel de la Madrid (Mexico)

- Europe – Olof Palme (Sweden)

These leaders collectively served as a symbol of:

- Non-aligned world
- Developing world
- Neutral Europe

## Intellectual and Moral Foundation

The initiative was based on three pillars:

- **Humanitarian Logic**
  - Nuclear weapons cause extensive civilian casualties.
  - No health, ecological, or economic system can recover from nuclear war.
- **Moral Argument**
  - The possession of nuclear weapons is considered ethically wrong.
  - Global security cannot depend on mutual mass destruction.
- **Political Justice**
  - A few nuclear states exert significant influence over international security.
  - Non-nuclear states face existential risks without any control.

## Historical Context (Why 1985?)

### The Origin

- The nuclear rivalry between the US and USSR during the Cold War
- Deployment of:
  - Pershing II missiles (USA)
  - S3 – 20 missiles (USSR)
- Overview of previous arms control negotiations
- Growing concern over the risk of nuclear war accidents.

Also influenced by –

- Memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Nuclear testing in the Pacific and developing regions.
- The atmosphere surrounding the Chernobyl disaster is closing in (1986).

## Major Proposals and Demands

The Four Continents Initiative called for –

- **Complete Disarmament of Nuclear Weapons:** It's not a reduction in arms but rather an addition.

- **No first–use (NFU) Commitment:** All nuclear states should clearly declare – “*We will never be the first to deploy nuclear weapons.*”
- **Cease of Nuclear Testing:** A global prohibition on underground and atmospheric nuclear testing.
- **Moratorium on Nuclear Weapon Development:** No extra warheads included and no modernisation
- **Transforming Nuclear Spending into Development:** Money spent on weapons should be redirected to –
  - Poverty reduction
  - Health
  - Education
  - Climate protection

## India’s Central Role

Under Rajiv Gandhi, India became the chief global voice of moral nuclear disarmament. India’s contributions were as follows:

- It called for complete nuclear disarmament, surpassing mere NPT regulations.
- It rejected – Some favor disarmament, whereas others prefer deterrence.
- It linked nuclear disarmament, global development, and human survival.

This initiative later became an inspiration for Rajiv Gandhi’s 1988 UN proposal for establishing a world free of nuclear weapons

## International Impact

Although the initiative was not legally binding, it still successfully achieved –

- Global public awareness
- Pressure on nuclear powers

Strengthened –

- Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)
- Initiatives to establish nuclear-free zones
- Nuclear-Free Zone Initiatives
- Peace Movements

Rising demand for –

- CTBT (1996)
- Nuclear Weapon Free Zones
- Later TPNW (2017)

## Limitations and Criticism

- It is not legally enforceable and serves solely as a moral and political appeal.
- Nuclear powers, including the USA and USSR, ignored it; officially, they did not join.

- An enforcement system without sanctions or legal authority.
- Power politics persisted throughout the Cold War, with deterrence remaining a central strategy.

## Comparison with Other Disarmament Efforts

- The Four Continent Initiative (1985) is motivated by both moral and political reasons, with the goal of complete abolition.
- NPT, 1968, is a legal treaty focused on non-proliferation.
- The 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is an international treaty that prohibits nuclear tests.

## Significance

- Normative Power in Global Relations
- Ethical diplomacy
- South emerged as a leader in disarmament activism.
- Focusing on human security instead of state security.
- Different perspectives on nuclear deterrence theory

## In Brief

The Four Continent Peace Initiative (1985) was a significant moral and strategic appeal globally. Led by India and other non-nuclear nations, it advocated for complete nuclear disarmament. The initiative challenged Cold War deterrence policies by highlighting humanitarian concerns.

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# 5

## Panchsheel Treaty of 1954

Panchsheel literally means "five virtues" or "five principles" (from Sanskrit – *Pancha* meaning five, *Sheel* meaning principles of conduct). In international relations, it refers to the five principles of peaceful coexistence that guide interactions between sovereign states. These principles were officially outlined in 1954 through a treaty between India and China, led by Jawaharlal Nehru and Zhou Enlai.

### Historical Background

#### Post World War II World Order

- The world was split into Cold War alliances:
  - The USA led the capitalist bloc.
  - The USSR led the socialist camp.
- Newly independent nations like India aimed to:
  - Avoid forming military alliances.
  - Safeguard national sovereignty.
  - Prioritize development over power struggles.

#### Tibet and India-China Relations

China established control over Tibet in 1950. India needed an official agreement to set up regulations regarding:

- Trade
- Pilgrimage routes
- Border interactions

This led to the 1954 Agreement on Trade and Intercourse with Tibet, which established Panchsheel.

### The Five Principles of Panchsheel (1954)

- **Mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty** requires that all nations' borders and independence be acknowledged and honored, fostering trust and respect in international relations. It underscores the importance of recognizing and celebrating each nation's borders, which remains central to global stability.
- **Mutual non-aggression** entails both parties agreeing to refrain from using force against each other.
- **Mutual non-interference** in internal affairs also implies that no country should interfere in another's domestic politics.
- **Relations of equality and mutual benefit** should be based on equal terms.
- **Peaceful coexistence** means countries with different systems can live together harmoniously.

These principles promote –

- State sovereignty

- Peaceful dispute resolution
- Anti – imperialism
- Anti hegemonism

## Global Expansion of Panchsheel

At the **Bandung Conference in 1955**, Panchsheel became a key diplomatic principle for the Global South, shaping regional cooperation and anti-colonial solidarity. The key leaders were:

- Jawaharlal Nehru
- Gamal Abdel Nasser
- Sukarno
- Tito

Hosted by Indonesia during the Bandung Conference, Panchsheel provided the philosophical basis for the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM).

## Adoption by the United Nations

In 1957, the UN General Assembly recognized the five principles. They became an integral aspect of international diplomatic ethics.

## Panchsheel in India’s Foreign Policy

India adopts Panchsheel as the moral foundation of its diplomacy, especially in dealings with:

- China
- Neighbouring states
- Africa and Latin America
- Developing countries

Key applications:

- Non–alignment
- Strategic autonomy
- South – South cooperation
- Peaceful diplomacy

## Decline after 1962- India-China War

Despite Panchsheel, China violated the principles of territorial integrity and non-aggression. This reveals the idealism of Panchsheel, the weakness of moral diplomacy, and a lack of military preparedness.

## Theoretical Interpretation

Idealist Theory emphasizes the importance of Morality, International Law, and the pursuit of Peace via cooperation. Nehruvian Idealism asserts that India believed morality could shape international politics. It has been criticized by Realists, who argue, “Wishful thinking in an anarchic world system.”

## Legal and Diplomatic Importance

Panchsheel has strengthened:

- Sovereign equality among states
- Non-intervention doctrine
- Peaceful coexistence, and
- Anti-colonial global order

These principles later impacted –

- UN Charter interpretation
- NAM declarations
- BRICS and SCO diplomatic language

## Achievements of Panchsheel

It provided a moral foundation for newly independent countries, helping prevent the rapid militarization of Asia. It played a role in shaping the Non-Aligned Movement and Afro-Asian solidarity, fostering peaceful coexistence despite ideological disparities.

## Limitations and Criticisms

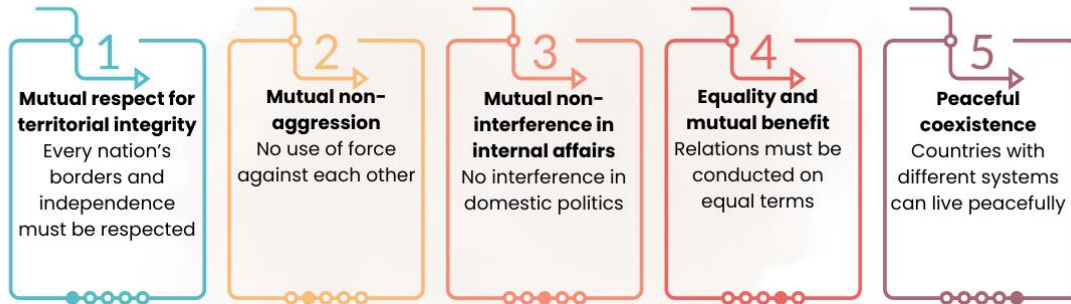
- Criticism includes over-idealistic aspects, failed in 1962, lacks an enforcement mechanism, and has a weak security doctrine.
- Its explanation encompasses overlooked power dynamics, China violated Panchsheel, a purely moral principle, and India is underprepared militarily.

## PANCHSHEEL

### Historical Background

First formally articulated in the 1954 India-China agreement.  
Adapted as basis of non-aligned movement at the Bandung Conference in Indonesia in 1955.

### The Five Principles



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## Contemporary Significance of Panchsheel

Currently, India and China officially reaffirm Panchsheel, demonstrating its enduring relevance and the importance of diplomatic principles in maintaining dialogue despite challenges.

- Joint statements between India and China
- In SCO and BRICS diplomacy
- In discussions about leadership in the Global South.

But practical relations are now governed more by –

- Strategic realism
- Balance of power
- Border security

## In Brief

Panchsheel embodies India's ethical approach to international relations, emphasizing sovereignty, non-aggression, and peaceful coexistence. While morally compelling, its limitations became evident in light of geopolitical realities, particularly after the 1962 Indo-China conflict.

# 6

## Indo-Nepal Treaty of Friendship, 1950

The Indo-Nepal Treaty of Friendship was signed on July 31, 1950, between India and Nepal. At that time, India had recently gained independence in 1947, while Nepal was under the autocratic Rana regime, which ruled on behalf of the monarchy. The People's Movement of Nepal (1950–51) was gaining momentum. Meanwhile, China had completed its Communist Revolution in 1949 and was preparing to take control of Tibet by 1951.

Key figures in the treaty included Jawaharlal Nehru of India and King Tribhuvan of Nepal. The strategic context involved India's concern about the expansion of Chinese communist influence in the Himalayas and Nepal's political instability, both of which threatened India's northern security. Therefore, the treaty aimed to secure India's borders, support Nepal's shift toward democracy, and foster special relations between the two countries.

### Key Provisions

#### Article 1: Peace and friendship

Both states –

- Recognize the idea of everlasting peace.
- Declare commitment to sovereign equality.
- Uphold territorial integrity.

It laid the groundwork for special relations.

#### Article 2: Security Consultation Clause (Most Controversial in Nature)

If either country encounters –

- Threat to autonomy
- Breakdown of peace
- They are required to inform and consult with one another.

Nepal argues this –

- Its limitation is its independent foreign policy.
- Positions India as a defender of security.

#### Article 3: Diplomatic Privileges

Nationals and diplomatic mission staff benefit from –

- Privileges
- Immunities
- Consular protections

It aligns with international diplomatic standards.

#### **Article 4: National Treatment (Economic Clause)**

Citizens of both nations have equal rights concerning residency, property, trade, business, and employment. This facilitates open economic integration and results in a substantial Nepali workforce in India and Indian investments in Nepal.

#### **Articles 5 and 6: Regulations on Defense and Arms**

Nepal agrees to import arms and military supplies only with India's approval. India pledges full support for Nepal's development, but Nepal views this as a violation of its sovereignty and a sign of unequal military reliance.

#### **Article 7: Free Movement of People**

Citizens of both nations can travel, reside, work, and own property without needing passports or visas. This is a rare feature in international relations. Its advantages include strong people-to-people connections, cultural cohesion, and labor movement. However, it also poses challenges, such as security risks and discussions about illegal immigration.

#### **Articles 8, 9, and 10: Treaty Supremacy and Duration**

All prior treaties are invalidated. The treaty stays in force until one party gives notice of withdrawal, ensuring it remains legally binding and effective.

### **Objectives of the Treaty**

- Strategic security involves safeguarding against threats from China.
- Supporting democracy involves ending Rana's autocracy.
- Economic integration includes free trade and the free movement of labor.
- Cultural unity entails a shared civilization.
- Regional stability requires maintaining a geopolitical balance in the Himalayan area.

### **Significance of the Treaty**

- The paramount importance lies in creating a buffer zone between India and China, which is a crucial part of India's strategy for Himalayan security.
- Nepal's economy relies significantly on Indian ports, fuel imports, and markets. India is Nepal's primary trading partner and the leading source of investment.
- Civilisational Ties encompass a shared Hindu–Buddhist cultural heritage, river systems such as the Ganga, and open borders.

### **The Unequal Treaty**

The Unequal Treaty was negotiated during a period of political weakness in Nepal, raising questions about its long-term impact on Nepal's sovereignty and independence.

- Articles 2 and 5, which involve security consultations and arms import regulations, directly influence Nepal's diplomatic autonomy and decision-making power.
- Defense Dependence describes a situation in which arms imports are limited.
- Economic Dominance indicates a strong Indian influence.

- Nationalist Resentment relates to the narrative of 'Indian interference.'

Nepali political parties frequently call for revising or abolishing the treaty, which can foster a feeling of hope and empowerment in the audience about regional change.

## India's Position on the Treaty

India claims that the treaty benefits both parties and is based on mutual trust, thereby promoting feelings of fairness and understanding among the audience.

The treaty can be amended with the agreement of both parties. However, it emphasizes that Nepal must take into account India's valid security concerns.

## Recent Developments and Relevance

- After Nepal adopted a new Constitution in 2015, border tensions increased, causing strained relations with India.
- Nepal improved its relationship with China.
- Calls have been made to form a committee to revise the 1950 Treaty and promote fairer diplomacy. However, the treaty remains the legal foundation of India–Nepal relations today.

## In Brief

The Indo-Nepal Treaty of Friendship (1950) established strong strategic, economic, and cultural ties between India and Nepal. However, due to unequal power dynamics, Nepal has consistently pushed for its revision to preserve its sovereign equality in today's geopolitics.

### Indo–Nepal Treaty of Friendship, 1950

Article	Summary
Article 1	Both States acknowledge perpetual peace, sovereign equality, territorial integrity
Security Consultation	In a Event of Threat to Independence or peace breakdown, inform and consult each other
Article 3	Nationals and Diplomatic mission staff grante prasideg nvileges ad immunities
National Treatment	Citizens in each other's territory to reside, own property, trade, huvenholding business
Articles 5 & 6	Defense and Arms Regulation: Nepal imporvit defense arms with India's consent India agrees to cooperate between two countries
Article 7	Free Movement of People: Citizens of both countries can move freely across border without passport or visa
Articles 8,9 81	Treaty Supremacy & Duration: Previou treaties null and void
	Treaty continues until terminated by either party

## Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam)

The Afghanistan–India Friendship Dam, also known as the Salma Dam, exemplifies India’s strategic role in regional development and geopolitics, highlighting its long-term partnership with Afghanistan. It is situated on the Hari River in Herat province, western Afghanistan. The nearest district is Chishti Sharif. It was inaugurated on June 4th, 2016, by Narendra Modi alongside Ashraf Ghani. Built by WAPCOS with funding from the Government of India, the total cost was approximately 1,775 crore INR (around USD 300 million).

- In the 1970s, the Salma irrigation and hydropower project was developed in 1976, based on the Original Vision, with initial construction supported by the Soviet Union.
- In the 1980s–1990s, total abandonment was caused by the Soviet invasion (1979), civil war, and the Taliban regime. The project stayed entirely stalled for almost 25 years.
- Since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, Afghanistan has sought international assistance. In 2005, India formally began participating in the project as a component of its reconstruction aid efforts.

### Engineering and Technical Specifications

- The type of dam includes a rock-fill embankment
- Height is ~107 meters
- Length ~550 meters
- Reservoir Capacity includes ~640 million cubic meters
- Hydropower Capacity includes 42 MW (3 \* 14 MW turbines)
- Irrigation Potential includes over 75,000 hectares of farmland

### Primary Objectives of the Dam

- Power Generation provides electricity to Herat City and the surrounding industrial areas, thereby reducing reliance on imports from Iran.
- Agricultural irrigation has facilitated the resurgence of wheat farming, orchards, and vegetable cultivation, ensuring a more stable water supply in Afghanistan's dry western areas.
- Flood control focuses on managing the Hari River's seasonal flooding.
- Employment generation involves thousands of Afghan workers engaged in construction and local skill development facilitated by Indian engineers.

## Strategic Importance for India

- Soft Power Diplomacy has reinforced India's image as a development partner instead of a military power, emphasizing friendship, trust, and ongoing engagement.
- Regional Influence involves overseeing the power dynamics between Pakistan and China in Afghanistan.
- Connectivity Vision is linked with India's broader regional initiatives, including Chabahar Port and the International North-South Transport Corridor.
- Security threats during construction, with over 150 attacks against workers, highlight the resilience and dedication of those involved despite ongoing risks, fostering respect and empathy among readers.
- More than 150 attacks have been reported against Indian engineers and Afghan workers.
- Multiple security agencies guarded the site.
- India persisted in its efforts without deploying combat troops, demonstrating its civilian-focused strategy.

## Renaming as "friendship dam" (2016)

During the inauguration, PM Modi announced, *"This is a symbol of the everlasting friendship between India and Afghanistan."* From that day, Salma Sam officially gained fame as the Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam.

## Impact Following the Commission (2016–2019)

- The Power Sector has improved local electricity supply and decreased blackouts in Herat.
- Agriculture emphasizes increasing crop frequency and reactivating previously unused farmland.
- The economy played a role in increasing farm incomes and supporting small agro-based industries.
- The dam's impact extends to reducing rural poverty and improving water security, which are vital for regional development and socio-economic stability in western Afghanistan.

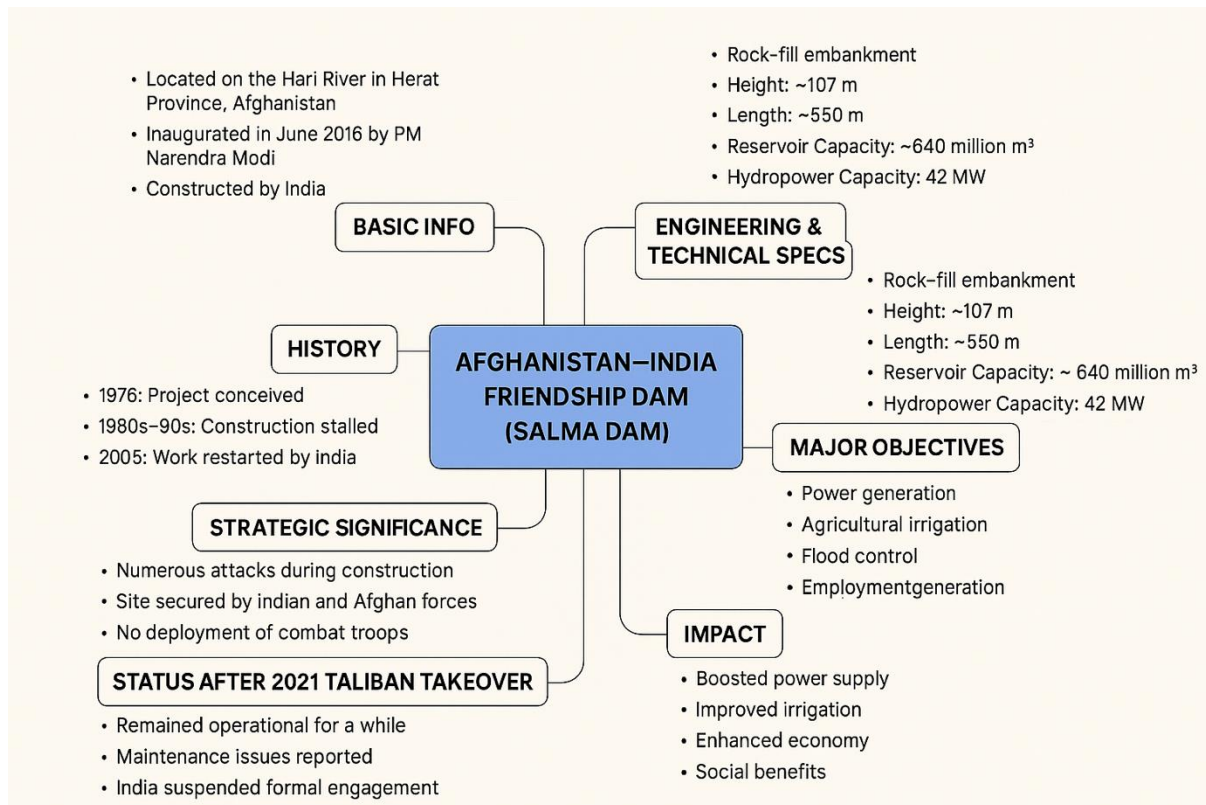
## Comparison with Other Indian Projects in Afghanistan

- Salma Dam provides both power and irrigation, and its construction is complete.
- The Zaranj–Delaram Highway now includes connectivity, and its status is marked as completed.
- The Afghan Parliament Building symbolizes democracy and is considered completed.

- Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul has been completed and is now operational.

## In Brief

The Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam stands as an enduring symbol of India’s civilian-led foreign policy in a conflict zone. Despite changes in government and persistent instability, the Salma Dam exemplifies development-oriented diplomacy and regional collaboration.



# 8

## Siachen Dispute

The Siachen Dispute is the world's highest-altitude military conflict, fought over the Siachen Glacier in the eastern Karakoram Range. It involves India and Pakistan, with China as an indirect strategic factor. It is unique as it is not driven by population or resources, but by strategic military geography.

Its location is in the eastern Karakoram range. Its length is ~76km. Its altitude is 18,000 – 22,000 feet. Its temperature is down to ~60 degrees Celsius. Its nearby regions such as Ladakh (India), Gilgit – Baltistan (Pakistan), Aksai Chin (China)

The strategic importance of controlling Saltoro Ridge underscores its vital role in regional security, conveying the gravity of this control and its impact on stability.

**Cartographic Aggression by Pakistan (1970s-80s)** includes Pakistan's refusal to allow foreign mountaineering expeditions to the Siachen region. It issued maps showing Siachen as Pakistani territory. This alarmed India of an impending territorial takeover.

**Operation Meghdoot** was launched on 13 April 1985, marking the world's first pre-emptive high-altitude military occupation. India occupied key positions, including Saltoro Ridge, Bilafond La, Sia La, and Gyong La, establishing permanent strategic dominance. Despite repeated assaults, Pakistan was unable to dislodge Indian forces.

### Military Reality After 1984

- Ridge control is a clear 'yes' for India but a definite 'no' for Pakistan.
- Logistics in India via airlift through Leh and Pakistan involves lengthy supply routes.
- India's military losses are significant but controlled, whereas Pakistan's losses are incredibly high.
- Tactical Position includes critical high ground in India and the Lower Valleys in Pakistan.

More soldiers die from weather conditions than in combat.

### The China Factor in the Siachen Dispute

China's strategic role, including its control of Aksai Chin and the construction of the Karakoram Highway, underscores its influence, prompting the audience to consider regional power dynamics and their importance.

If India withdraws from Siachen, China might enter via Pakistan.

## Environmental and Human Cost

### Human Cost

- Over 2,000 casualties in India and Pakistan have resulted from avalanches, frostbite, pulmonary edema, and crevasse falls.
- Environmental damage encompasses glacial oil spills, plastic and metal debris, fuel contamination, and microplastics found in ice.

### Attempts at Peace and Demilitarisation

- 1989 – 1992 Talks – India aimed to confirm the current positions, but Pakistan declined, leading to the breakdown of negotiations.
- The Simla Agreement of 1972 covers the established Line of Control (LoC), but it did not resolve the issue of Siachen.
- The Lahore Declaration of 1999 initially included confidence-building measures but was later undermined by the Kargil War.

### India's Core Position includes India's insistence on –

- Verification of troop positions on maps
- Acknowledgment of Saltoro Ridge as under Indian control, with no withdrawal unless supported by written guarantees.
- No withdrawals accepted without written guarantees.

### Why India Won't Withdraw

- Tactical positions provide an unmistakable and lasting advantage.
- Previous betrayal at Kargil shattered trust
- China – Pakistan: Potential risk nexus

### Pakistan's main stance

- Calls Siachen an “unnecessary conflict zone.
- It requires both parties to withdraw without verifying identities.
- Its objective is to maintain the scope for future territorial reclamation.

## International Law Perspective

- No clear boundary treaty was established after NJ9842.
- India's occupation is regarded as actual control.
- Under international law, “*Control and administration over time strengthen sovereignty.*”

## Presently

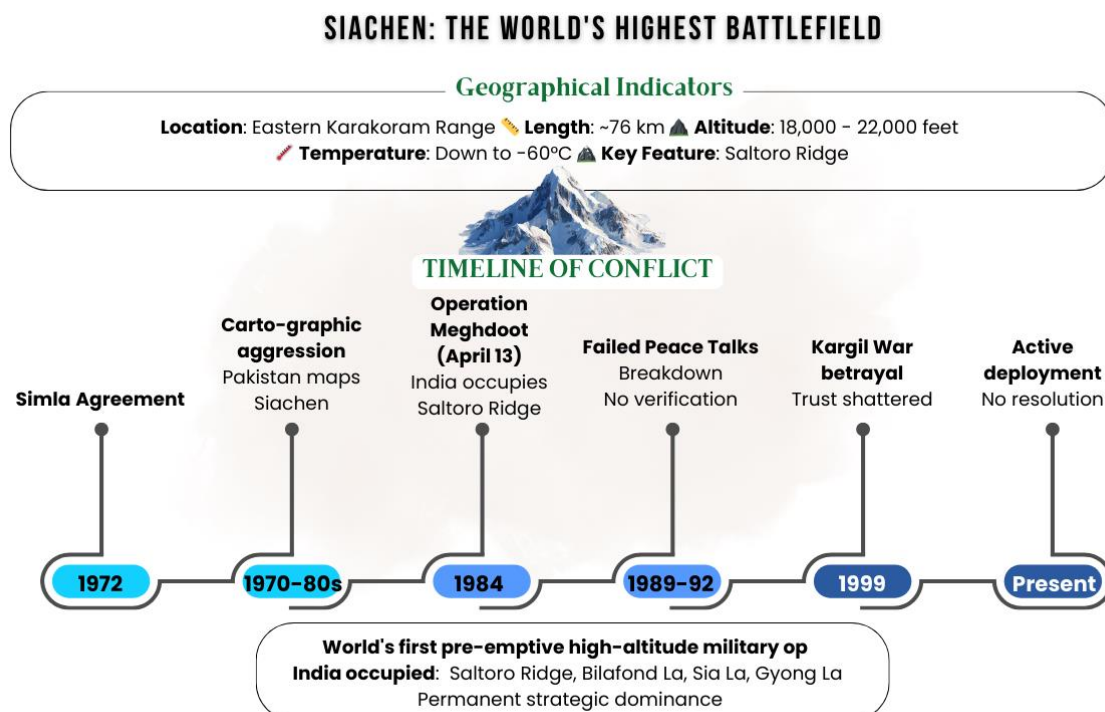
- Military Deployment encompasses an active status.
- Ceasefire Violations include only minimal status updates.
- The current status of peace talks is suspended, with negotiations having broken down after previous attempts. Infrastructure improvements and strategic climate trends, mainly influenced by China, continue to shape the conflict's future, leaving open questions about possible resumption or resolution efforts.
- Infrastructure improvements enhance Indian logistics.
- Strategic Climate includes trends attributable to China.

## Why Siachen Still Matters Today

- Safeguards include Ladakh, Karakoram Pass, and Nubra Valley.
- Blocks include the Pakistan–China direct military corridor, psychological dominance, prestige, and deterrence.

## In Brief

Siachen isn't only about land; it's also about holding the highest elevation in South Asia.



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# 9

## Sir Creek Dispute

The Sir Creek Dispute is a long-standing territorial and maritime boundary issue between India and Pakistan, situated in the Rann of Kutch region of the Arabian Sea. Highlighting its strategic, economic, and security implications can help the audience appreciate its significance and feel engaged with regional stability concerns.

### Geographical Location and Physical Features

- Location – Mouth of the Indus Delta, Arabian Sea
- Length - ~96 km
- Terrain - approximately salt marshes, mudflats, and tidal estuaries.
- Indian side – Kutch district, Gujarat
- Pakistani side – Sindh province
- Nature – Tidal, shifting, and unstable creek

Sir Creek forms the border between Kutch in India and Sindh in Pakistan. As a tidal waterway, it has a continuously changing shape and course, making boundary demarcation more complicated.

### Historical Background

**1914 agreement** – marking the origin of the dispute, when the Government of Bombay (British India) and the Ruler of Kutch signed a boundary agreement involving Sindh. The agreement covers:

- A textual description
- Map B-44 (official sketch)

**Two Contradictory Interpretations emerged –**

- India's view features a boundary line along the creek's eastern bank, and this single distinction has led to enduring ambiguity.
- Pakistan's perspective considers boundary runs along the mid-channel (thawleg).

This one difference led to ongoing ambiguity.

### Legal Positions of India and Pakistan

#### India's Legal Stand

- Sir Creek is entirely located within India's borders.
- The boundary lies along the creek's eastern edge.
- It is based on –
  - 1914 Bombay Government Resolution
  - Map B-44

- If accepted, the entire creek = Indian territory

## Pakistan's Legal Stand

- The boundary runs through the channel's middle.
- Sir Creek is a navigable waterway.
- Therefore, the thalweg principle applies.
- If accepted, the creek will be divided equally.

## Post-Independence Developments

### 1965 Rann of Kutch Conflict

- Clashes along the India-Pakistan border in Kutch.
- Resulted in international arbitration.
- Sir Creek was not included within the tribunal's jurisdiction.

### Simla Agreement, 1972

Under the Simla Agreement:

- Both parties agreed to settle disagreements through bilateral discussions.
- Sir Creek will be included in future talks.

## Strategic Importance of Sir Creek

### Maritime Boundary and EEZ

Sir Creek determines –

- Starting point of the maritime boundary.
- Impacts the Exclusive Economic Zone within 200 nautical miles.

It even involves 1-2 km shift changes to control over –

- Thousands of sq km of sea
- Seabed minerals, oil, and gas

### Fishermen and Human Rights

- Countless impoverished fishermen unknowingly cross paths.
- Frequent arrests for –
  - Indian Coast Guard
  - Pakistani Maritime Security Agency

They suffer –

- Extended periods of incarceration

- Loss of livelihood
- Family hardships

### Military and Security Significance

- The region is threatened by smuggling, terrorist infiltration, and arms trafficking.
- The route is near the Gujarat coast and the Karachi naval base.

### Joint Survey and Talks (1990s – 2007)

- Both countries conducted hydrographic surveys and satellite mapping.
- Alignment has been achieved at approximately 90%.
- Disagreement continues over the final boundary line and the creek's status as either a river or an estuary.

Discussions were put on hold after the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

### Why the Dispute Remains Unresolved

Political mistrust, concerns over terrorism, border conflicts, and environmental shifts make resolution difficult, emphasizing the need for informed engagement from the audience.

- Political mistrust includes concerns such as terrorism and border conflicts.
- Strategic sensitivity covers EEZ and maritime navigation routes.
- Legal rigidity relates to the case involving the Thalweg and the eastern bank.
- Climate change leads to ongoing shifts in creek paths.
- Diplomatic breakdown often involves dialogue being frequently suspended.

### Difference between Land Boundary and Maritime Boundary

- Sir Creek represents the final unresolved boundary point between India and Pakistan, signifying the last dispute over their land-sea border.
- Without reaching an agreement on Sir Creek—
  - The entire maritime boundary cannot be legally established.
  - UNCLOS arbitration encounters growing challenges.

### Current Official Positions

#### India

- Supports peaceful resolution through bilateral efforts.
- Refuses to agree to third-party arbitration.

- It wants –
  - Sir Creek issue resolved before maritime EEZ negotiations.
  - Connected to broader composite dialogue.

## Pakistan

- Thawleg’s requirements are defined by demarcation.
- It wants –
  - Creek and maritime boundaries are addressed simultaneously.
  - A quicker resolution on EEZ management.

## Comparison with Other India–Pakistan Disputes

- Kashmir's nature is both territorial and political.
- Siachen involves military oversight of the glacier.
- Sir Creek encompasses maritime and economic aspects.

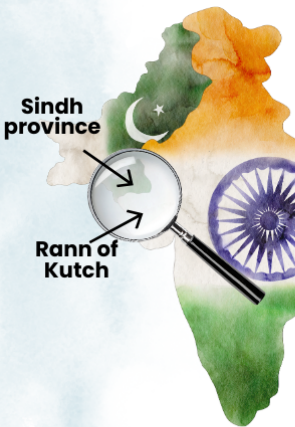
Sir Creek holds greater economic importance than its political symbolism.

### SIR CREEK: A GEOPOLITICAL DISPUTE

#### Geographical Indicators

**Location:** Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, India and Sindh province in Pakistan

**Nature:** The continuously changing shape and course of the tidal waterway complicates the boundary demarcation



#### History, Strategic Importance, and Legal Positions

**Historical Background**

1914 agreement signed between the then Government of Bombay and the ruler of Kutch.

**Two Contradictory Interpretations:**

- India's view features a boundary line along the creek's eastern bank
- Pakistan's perspective considers boundary runs along the mid-channel (thawleg).

This one difference led to ongoing ambiguity.

**Legal Positions**

- For India, the entire creek is Indian territory
- For Pakistan, the creek is a navigable waterway to be divided equally

**Strategic Importance**

- Maritime boundary and EEZ
- Fishermen and human rights
- Military and security significance

**Ongoing Dispute**

- Political mistrust
- Strategic sensitivity
- Legal rigidity
- Climate change
- Diplomatic breakdown

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## The Environmental Dimension

It encompasses:

- Mangroves
- Marine biodiversity

- Turtle nestling grounds
- Vulnerable to oil spills and sea level rise caused by climate change.

Recognizing these issues can motivate the audience to value regional ecological health and cooperation. Disputes hinder collaborative conservation efforts.

## Feasible Solutions

- The agreement between the two parties details their top preferred options.
- Using satellite technology to set boundaries is technically achievable.
- The shared fishing zone fosters trust and cooperation.
- UNCLOS arbitration entails politically improbable actions.

## Why Sir Creek Matters

### For India

- Protection of the Gujarat coastline
- Safeguarding EEZ and offshore energy assets.
- Fishermen safety
- Naval security
- Leading the strategic influence in the Arabian Sea

### For Pakistan

- Expansion of EEZ
- Access to marine resources
- Enhanced coastal protection.
- Fishing livelihood protection

## In Brief

The Sir Creek conflict extends beyond a simple boundary dispute, encompassing strategic maritime concerns under international law, security, energy resources, and livelihoods, all set against the intricate geopolitics of South Asia.

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# 10

## Kalapani Dispute

Kalapani is a key border area located at the Himalayan tri-junction of India, Nepal, and China (Tibet Autonomous Region). It is situated in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, India, and the Darchula district of Nepal, near the **Limpiyadhura – Lipulekh – Kalapani border area**.

### Key Geographical Features

- The Kali River serves as a natural border between India and Nepal.
- Limpiyadhura is considered the river origin, as claimed by Nepal.
- Kalapani Valley contains a control point near Tibet.
- Lipulekh Valley features a control point near the border with Tibet.

### Historical Roots of the Dispute

The Treaty of Sugauli (1816) was signed between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Nepal, defining the Kali River as the western border of Nepal. This boundary remains central to the current dispute because it established colonial boundaries that Nepal and India interpret differently today.

It identified the Kali River as the western boundary of Nepal. The reader must understand that the core issue – India claiming the origin near Kalapani and Nepal asserting it begins at Limpiyadhura – underscores the dispute's importance and relevance to regional stability.

The sole geographic dispute leads to a territorial variance of around 370 sq km.

### Strategic Importance of Kalapani for India

- China's proximity to Tibet and its significance are close to the border.
- Military lookout involves monitoring PLA movements.
- Lipulekh access covers Trade and the Kailash pilgrimage.
- Post-1962, security includes India-stationed forces following the Sino-Indian War.

Following the Sino-Indian War, India stationed ITBP forces in Kalapani, where they remain today.

## Claims and Counterclaims

### What Does Nepal Argue?

Kalapani, Limpiyadhrua, and Lipulekh are territories that Nepal claims to belong to it, based on –

- 1816 Treaty of Sugauli
- Old British maps (1850 – 1870)
- The river's source at Limpiyadhura

In 2020, Nepal adopted a new political map that includes –

- Kalapani
- Lipulekh
- Limpiyadhura

Kathmandu described it as a “*correction of a historical injustice.*”

### India’s Stand

India maintains –

- India has been administering Kalapani since the 1950s.
- India conducts censuses, holds elections, and polices.
- Lipulekh is included in the India-China border agreements.
- Disputes should be resolved through diplomatic dialogue rather than through unilateral map modifications.

## The 2020 Crisis

### Why Did Tensions Spike?

India created a route from Dharchula to Lipulekh Pass for the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage. Nepal reacted strongly, protesting diplomatically, releasing a new map, and amending its constitution to assert its territorial claim. India, however, criticized Nepal’s actions as “unjustified and artificially enlarged.”

### People Impact

- Locals in Byans Valley experience identity confusion.
- Traders are subject to movement restrictions.
- Pilgrims include a politically charged route.
- Border tribes are affected by standoff diplomacy.

## China: The Silent Stakeholder

Although China does not officially assert claims on Kalapani, it gains strategic advantages because –

- The dispute strains the relations between India and Nepal.
- Lipulekh Pass provides China with leverage on –
  - Trade
  - Tibet Security
  - Himalayan military balance

## Military and Security Dimension

Indo-Tibetan Border Police states –

- Permanent camps
- Surveillance checkpoints
- Road and logistics management

India regards Kalapani as a vital and non-negotiable element of Himalayan defense.

## International Law Perspective

### Relevant Principles

- Thalweg principle (boundary along the middle of the river)
- Effective control doctrine
- *Uti possidetis juris* (respect for colonial borders)

India emphasizes the importance of proper control, whereas Nepal underscores the need to interpret the treaty as initially intended.

### In Brief

Encouraging the audience to see peaceful diplomatic resolution as the best approach can foster a sense of hope and responsibility for long-term stability in the Himalayas.

# KALAPANI: NEED FOR PEACEFUL DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTION

## Geographical Indicators

Situated in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, India, and the Darchula district of Nepal, near the **Limpiyadhura – Lipulekh – Kalapani border area**.

## History, Strategic Importance, and Legal Principles

### Historical Background

The **Treaty of Sugauli (1816)** was signed between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Nepal, **defining the Kali River as the western border of Nepal**.

This boundary remains central to the current dispute because it established colonial boundaries that Nepal and India interpret differently today.

### Strategic Importance

- China's proximity to Tibet and its significance are close to the border.
- Military lookout involves monitoring PLA movements.
- Lipulekh access covers trade and the Kailash pilgrimage.
- Post-1962, security includes India-stationed forces following the Sino-Indian War.

### International Law: Relevant Principles

- Thalweg principle (boundary along the middle of the river)
- Effective control doctrine
- *Uti possidetis juris* (respect for colonial borders)



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# 11

## Dahagram Angarpota Dispute

The Dahagram–Angarpota dispute concerns two Bangladeshi enclaves that are geographically isolated from the rest of Bangladesh and surrounded by Indian territory. This situation emphasizes challenges related to colonial boundary irregularities, enclave issues, sovereignty, transit rights, and humanitarian concerns.

### Geographical Indications

- Dahagram and Angarpota are two neighboring Bangladeshi enclaves situated in the Cooch Behar district of West Bengal, India.
- Approximately 18 square kilometers in size.
- Before 2015, the population was roughly between 20,000 and 25,000 residents.

### Historical Origins of the Dispute

#### Pre-Partition (Before 1947)

The region was part of the Cooch Behar princely state and the Rangpur district (British India). Various arrangements complicated its land ownership between:

- The Maharaja of Cooch Behar
- Zamindars of Rangpur

This led to land parcels that interlocked and eventually became enclaves.

#### Partition of India (1947)

- India–Pakistan border outlined by the Radcliffe Line.
- Cooch Behar became part of India.
- Rangpur traveled to East Pakistan.
- Dahagram – Angarpota now forms Pakistani enclaves within Indian territory.

No practical solution was implemented at that time; the problem remained unresolved.

#### After the Bangladesh Liberation (1971)

- East Pakistan became Bangladesh.
- Dahagram–Angarpota are now enclaves of Bangladesh situated within Indian territory.
- The issue has been reclassified from the Indo-Pak dispute to the Indo-Bangladesh dispute.

## Why was Dahagram Angarpota a Problem?

**Geographical Isolation refers to –**

- Enclosed within Indian territory.
- There is no direct road connection to Bangladesh.
- Only 85 meters of water separates it from the Bangladesh mainland.

### **Humanitarian Crisis**

Residents faced –

- No hospitals
- No schools beyond the primary level
- Absence of electricity
- Zero free movement
- There is a delay in essential services, including food, medicine, and emergency response.

**Residents lived as stateless people despite being citizens.**

### Tin Bigha Corridor – The Main Concern

Tin Bigha is a slender strip of land belonging to India. It is 178 meters long and 85 meters wide. It is located between Dahagram – Agarpota and the Bangladesh mainland.

This is vital because it is the only land route connecting Bangladesh to Dahagram. Later, India gained control of this passage, and Bangladesh sought transit rights.

## Diplomatic Efforts and Agreements

### Indira-Mujib Accord (1974)

#### **Main Points**

India agreed to –

- Lease the Tin Bigha Corridor to Bangladesh.
- Allow access to Dahagram.

Bangladesh agreed to –

- Exchange with other enclaves.

Challenges –

- The Indian Parliament does not ratify the agreement at the outset.
- The issue with Bigha access remained unresolved for many years.

### Opening of Tin Bigha (1992)

- India granted limited access.
- The corridor is open only for a few hours each day and is monitored by Indian security forces.
- Residents there still suffered because of restricted movement.

## 2011 Protocol to Land Boundary Agreement

- It is signed by Manmohan Singh from India and Sheikh Hasina from Bangladesh.
- It aimed to create permanent settlements for enclaves and address humanitarian concerns.
- It focused on two primary agendas: the Permanent Settlement of enclaves and the addressing of humanitarian issues.

## Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), 2015 – final resolution

### Historic Settlement

Key points are –

- The exchange of 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh.
- The transfer of 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India.
- Dahagram–Angarpota, however, remained part of Bangladesh.

### Tin Bigha Corridor

- Granted 24/7 access to Bangladesh.
- Residents now enjoy –
  - free movement
  - Electricity
  - Education
  - Healthcare
  - Administrative Integration

Disputes are handled and resolved with exceptional efficiency.

### Strategic and Politically Sensitive Points

Indian Concerns –

- Sovereignty over territory
- Security of the Siliguri corridor area
- A historical example supporting transit rights.

Bangladeshi Concerns –

- Human rights of enclave residents
- Territorial Continuity
- National dignity

## Significance for International Relations

### (a) Model of Peaceful Border Resolution

- A settlement was reached through negotiation.
- No military conflict.
- Respect for humanitarian policies and principles

**(b) Trust Building Measures**

- India and Bangladesh have strengthened their relations through cemented ties.
- Improved border cooperation

**(c) Relevance of International Law**

The resolution of the dispute was grounded in international legal frameworks, including the Land Boundary Agreement (2015), which set a precedent for peaceful border settlements based on treaties and diplomatic negotiations.

- Enclaves (enclaves)
- Transit rights
- Sovereignty v/s humanitarian access

## Present Status ( After 2015)

- **Dahagram Angarpota**
  - It is fully integrated with the Bangladesh administration.
  - Regular elections, public services, and policing.
- **Tin Bigha Corridor**
  - Open at all hours, every day, around the clock.
  - A system that is simultaneously regulated and collaborative.
- A complex border conflict in South Asia has been entirely and successfully resolved, encouraging optimism about peaceful solutions for similar disputes.

## In Brief

The Dahagram–Angarpota dispute originates from colonial boundary irregularities, causing considerable hardship for enclave residents. Its resolution via the 2015 Land Boundary Agreement represents a significant success in diplomatic border resolution efforts in South Asia.

# DAHAGRAM-ANGARPOTA DISPUTE

## Geographical Indicators

Bangladeshi enclaves surrounded by Indian territory



## Tin Bigha Corridor

- Indian land separating Dahagram from Bangladesh
- Core issue of the dispute

## History, Partition, and Agreements

### History and Partition

- Part of Cooch Behar princely state
- Interlocking land parcels
- During partition of India in 1947, Cooch Behar acceded to India
- Rangpur went to East Pakistan
- Dahagram-Angarpota became Pakistani enclave

### Indira-Mujib Accord (1974)

- Proposed leasing the corridor to Bangladesh
- Not ratified by Indian Parliament
- Access to enclave remained restricted

### Land Boundary Agreement (2015)

- Enclaves exchanged
- Dahagram-Nagarpota remained in Bangladesh
- 24x7 access to corridor provided

### Humanitarian and IR Significance

- Enclave residents suffered hardships
- The land agreement became a model of peaceful conflict resolution

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# 12

## Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

*Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* represents India's comprehensive strategy to achieve self-reliance while maintaining international engagement, avoiding isolation. It emphasizes enhancing local capacities, decreasing reliance on key imports, reinforcing supply chains, and positioning India to compete globally while fulfilling domestic potential.

The main idea, 'Local-Global' (Vocal for Local, Make in India for the whole world), reinforces the initiative's dual focus.

### Launch and Context

On 12 May 2020, the announcement addressed the COVID-19 economic shock, which led to supply disruptions, difficulties for MSMEs, and job losses. The initial actions involve economic relief measures and medium-term structural reforms.

### The Five Pillars

- The economy experiences a sudden, significant jump rather than gradual, step-by-step changes.
- The infrastructure has a strong and up-to-date backbone.
- The system employs technology-based and transparent governance.
- India's demographic profile features a youthful workforce.
- Its demand involves utilizing both domestic consumption and supply.

### Scale of the Package

- Rs 20 lakh crore equals approximately 10% of GDP at the time of announcement.
- It combines fiscal, monetary, and liquidity measures, as well as reform measures coordinated by the Centre and the RBI.

### Five Tranches-wise Breakdown (2020)

#### Tranche I – MSMEs, NBFCs, Power DISCOMs

- Rs 3 lakh crore in collateral-free loans for MSMEs

- Subordinate debt for stressed MSMEs
- Equity infusion through a fund of funds.
- Liquidity Support for NBFCs and HFCs
- Reforms in DISCOMs aimed at improving efficiency.

#### **Tranche II – Migrants, Street Vendors, Small Farmers**

- Free food grains are provided to migrants
- Affordable rental housing options for migrants.
- Credit support for street vendors (PM SVANidhi)
- Interest subsidy for SHGs

#### **Tranche III – Agriculture and Allied (Rs 1.5 lakh crore)**

- Funds for agriculture infrastructure, including warehousing and cold chains.
- Formalization of fisheries and animal husbandry
- Herbal cultivation, beekeeping, and farm gate logistics

#### **Tranche IV – New Horizons (Structural Reforms)**

- Private companies are now allowed to participate in coal mining.
- Defense – increased FDI limit, lists of indigenization priorities.
- Civil aviation – airport public-private partnerships (PPPs)
- Space and Atomic Energy – Private Sector Involvement

#### **Tranche V – Government Reforms**

- Ease of Doing Business
- Public procurement preference
- Streamlining GeM onboarding and accelerating payments.

## **Major Structural Reforms in the Atmanirbhar Initiative**

### **MSMEs**

- New MSME definition (investment + turnover)
- Public procurement preference
- GeM onboarding, faster payments

### **Manufacturing and PLI**

- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) across 14 sectors –

- It covers electronics, pharmaceuticals, APIs, automotive and electric vehicles, telecom, solar OV, white goods, textiles, drones, and semiconductors.
- Objective – Scale, exports, jobs, tech, depth

### **Agriculture**

- Agricultural logistics and cold chain management
- Market reforms (strengthening of NAM)
- Enhancing value addition and increasing farmers' income.

### **Defence and Strategic Sectors**

- Negative imports lists
- Indigenisation goals
- Increased domestic procurement

### **Energy and Infrastructure**

- Reforms in the coal sector and commercial mining.
- Reforms related to power distribution performance.
- National infrastructure pipelines synergy

## **Institutional and Programmatic Synergies**

- Make in India – enhancing manufacturing capabilities.
- Startup India – promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Digital India includes platforms such as UPI, DBT, and GeM.
- Skill India – Preparing the workforce for employment.
- National Logistics Policy – Focus on Reducing Costs
- Gati Shakti — a comprehensive approach to infrastructure planning

## ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN

- Local-Glocal: Dual focus
- Launched on 12 May 2020 to address the COVID-19 economic shock leading to supply disruptions, difficulties for MSMEs, and job losses

### THE FIVE PILLARS



#### Project Scale

- Rs 20 lakh crore (approx 10% of GDP)
- Combines fiscal, monetary, and liquidity measures, as well as reform measures

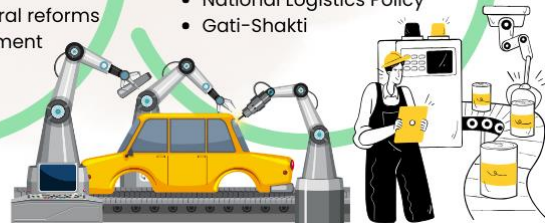
#### Five Tranches

- **Tranche I:** MSNEs, NBFCs, Power DISCOMs
- **Tranche II:** Migrants, Street Vendors, Small Farmers
- **Tranche III:** Agriculture and Allied
- **Tranche IV:** Structural reforms
- **Tranche V:** Government reforms

#### Synergies

- Make in India
- Startup India
- Digital India
- Skill India
- National Logistics Policy
- Gati-Shakti

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## Outcomes and Achievements

- Notable achievements, such as increased FDI inflows and growth in electronics manufacturing, foster pride and reassurance about India's evolving economic strength.
- Increase in electronics manufacturing, such as mobiles and their components.
- Growth in defence exports
- Formalization through GST, UPI, and JAM trinity.
- Diversifying supply chains to reduce reliance on a single country.

## Criticisms and Challenges

- Initial demand stimulus is limited.
- Implementation gaps at the state and local levels
- MSME challenges extend beyond credit issues, including market access and technology barriers.
- Skill mismatch in advanced manufacturing
- Risks of global protectionism

## **Atmanirbhar Bharat is not Autarky**

- Highlights open trade, WTO policies, and global value chains.
- It highlights the importance of maintaining strategic independence in critical sectors like defence, pharmaceuticals, and semiconductors.

### **In Brief**

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan signifies India's transition from vulnerability to resilient growth by implementing relief measures alongside comprehensive reforms. Its goal is to promote self-reliance while preserving global competitiveness and avoiding inward protectionism.

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# 13

## Pokhran II [Operation Shakti, 1998]

Pokhran II, also known as Operation Shakti, comprised five underground nuclear tests conducted by India on May 11 and 13, 1998, at the Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan. These tests formally established India as a nuclear weapons state beyond the NPT framework.

- Pokhran I of 1974, known as Smiling Buddha, was a peaceful nuclear test involving a single device, and its political implications remain uncertain.
- Pokhran II (1998), also known as Operation Shakti, involved weapon tests and devices, sending a strong political signal of nuclear deterrence, which aims to inspire trust and respect among the audience.

### Strategic Environment (1990s)

- China – Recognized nuclear weapons state with a legacy from the 1962 war.
- Pakistan's covert nuclear program, with assistance from China
- The CTBT stance requires not signing the treaty until all nations agree on disarmament.
- Post-Cold War Uncertainty – The need for autonomous deterrence.

### Political Leadership and Scientific Team

#### Political Leadership

- Prime Minister – Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- Decision taken within weeks of assuming office (March 1998)

#### Scientific and Strategic Leadership

It comprised Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Chief Scientific Advisor at DRDO, overseeing overall coordination, and Dr. R. Chidambaram, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, concentrating on design and physics. The participating organizations include DRDO, BARC, and the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers.

### Dates and Sequence of Tests

#### 11 May 1998

- Shakti I – Thermonuclear (Hydrogen bomb)
- Shakti II – Fission device
- Shakti III – Sub – kiloton device

**May 13, 1998**

- Shakti IV – Low-yield tactical device
- Shakti V – Low-yield experimental device

Total number of tests – 5

## Technical Characteristics

- Shakti I is a thermonuclear missile developed for strategic deterrence.
- The Shakti II type uses fission (plutonium) and is designed as a proven weapon model.
- The Shakti III type encompasses Sub Kilton and is intended for tactical flexibility.
- The Shakti IV and V feature low-yield types designed to facilitate weapon miniaturization.

## Yields – Approximate

- Reported total yield: approximately 45 to 58 kilotons.
- All tests were carried out underground to minimize seismic and radioactive effects.

## Secrecy and Planning

- Its high level of secrecy is intended to prevent detection by US satellites.
- Tests were scheduled during periods with minimal satellite passes.
- Engineers operated exclusively at night.
- Decoy activities are conducted at the test range.
- Even senior ministers learned about the destruction hours in advance.

## India's Official Nuclear Doctrine (Post Pokhran II)

### Announced Principles

- Credible Minimum Deterrence
- No First Use (NFU)
- No use against non-nuclear states.
- Civilian political control
- Doctrine of massive retaliation

The formal doctrine was issued in 2003.

## International Reactions

### Sanctions Imposed

- USA – Sanctions under the Glenn Amendment
- Japan – Suspension of Aid
- World Bank and IMF – Limitations on Lending

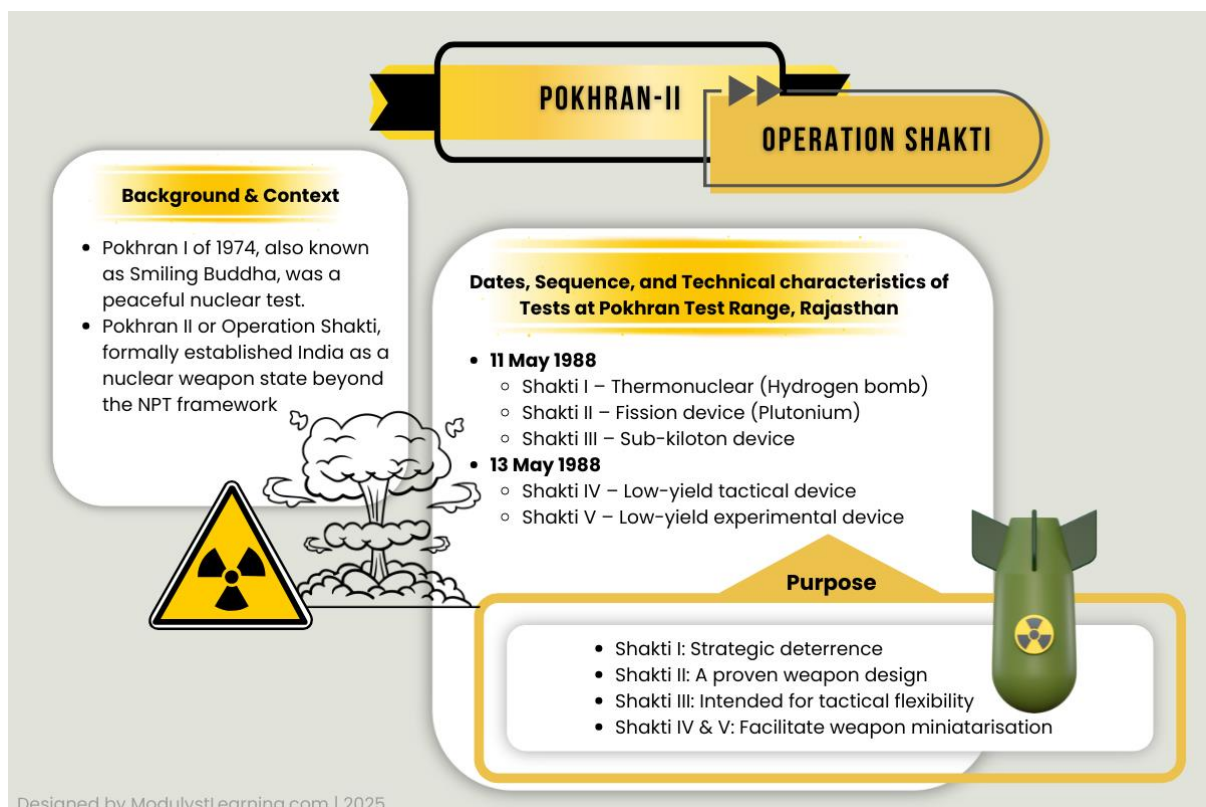
### Diplomatic Responses

- UN Security Council Resolution 1172 –
  - Condemned tests conducted by India and Pakistan
  - Advocated for compliance with the CTBT.
- Long-term Outcome –
  - Sanctions are being progressively eased.
  - India was later recognized as a responsible power.
  - It led to the India–US Civil Nuclear Deal (2005–08).

### Pakistan’s Response

- Chagai – I and Chagai – II carried out nuclear tests on May 28 and 30, 1998.

South Asia was formally established as a nuclear pair, highlighting the regional strategic responsibility and the importance of understanding South Asian geopolitics for the audience.



## Strategic Significance of Pokhran-II

### For India

- Concluded nuclear ambiguity.
- Confirmed strategic independence.

- Enhanced global bargaining power
- Foundation for -
  - Agni missile series
  - Nuclear triad

#### **For Global Politics**

- Questioned the NPT's unjust and discriminatory framework.
- Compelled nuclear powers to interact pragmatically with India.

### **Criticism and Controversies**

- Debates over the thermonuclear yield success
- Arms race concerns in South Asia
- Economic cost v/s development priorities
- Environmental and seismic debates

### **Pokhran II versus CTBT and NPT**

- India's position on the NPT is considered discriminatory, and it has chosen not to sign.
- The CTBT will not be signed unless there is a universal and time-bound agreement.

### **In Brief**

Pokhran II marked India's definitive move from nuclear ambiguity to explicit deterrence, significantly shaping South Asia's strategic stability and emphasizing its importance in regional geopolitics.

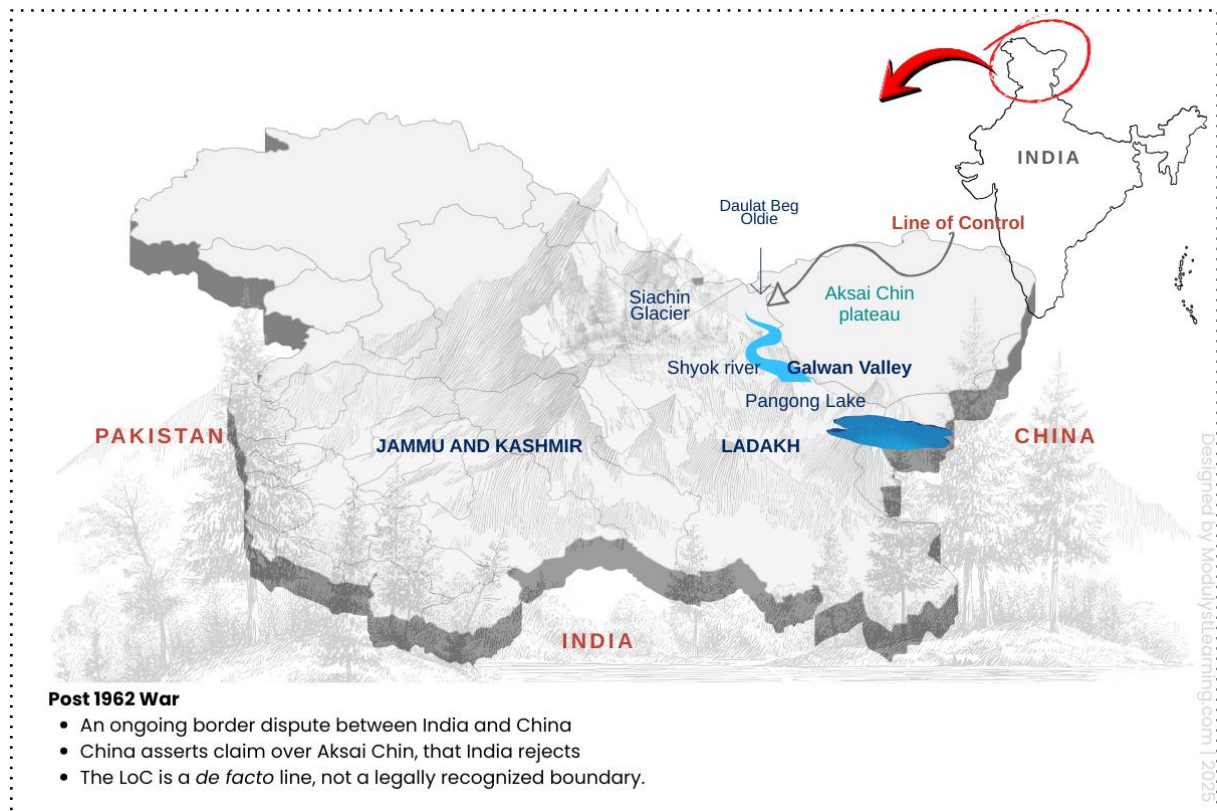
While sanctions were initially imposed, they ultimately helped India gain recognition as a responsible nuclear power.

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## Galwan Valley Dispute

Galwan Valley lies in Eastern Ladakh near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) separating India and China. The Galwan River emerges in Aksai Chin (China-controlled) and flows westward to join the Shyok River in India.

As for strategic importance – It overlooks the Darbuk–Shyok–Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road, a vital route for India to access Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) near the Karakoram Pass, and for China to connect Xinjiang to Tibet via Highway G219. The area's high-altitude terrain, between 14,000 and 17,000 feet, underscores the importance of logistics and surveillance.



### Historical Background of the Dispute

#### Legacy of the 1962 War

- The 1962 India-China War resulted in a persistent border dispute that remains unresolved.
- China asserted its claim over Aksai Chin, but India has always rejected it.
- There is no officially agreed boundary; the LAC is a *de facto* line, not a legally recognized boundary.

## Status of Galwan before 2020

- Galwan Valley experienced inevitable major confrontations, unlike Pangong Tso or Depsang.
- India historically conducted patrols up to Patrolling Point (PP) 14.
- China's claims intensified as India enhanced its border infrastructure following the 2010s.

## Immediate Causes of the 2020 Galwan Crisis

### Infrastructure Trigger

- India's completion of the DSDBO road enhanced troop mobility.
- China saw this as a shift in the existing situation around the LAC.

### Chinese Forward Movement

- PLA troops advanced into regions that India regarded as its side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- Temporary structures and observation posts were established near PP-14.

### COVID-19 and Global Context

- The pandemic disrupted diplomatic relations.
- China has simultaneously adopted a more assertive stance in the South China Sea, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, indicating a broader strategic perspective.

## The Galwan Clash

### Nature of the Clash

- It occurred during a disengagement process agreed upon by the commanders.
- No weapons were involved, in line with the PAS borders agreement.
- Combat involves using stones, iron rods, and nail-studded clubs.
- Then, fierce hand-to-hand combat occurs at night along a steep ridgeline.

### Casualties

- India: 20 soldiers, including Col. B. Santosh Babu, were killed.
- China: Official figures were initially withheld, later acknowledged as such; four fatalities were officially confirmed, though independent estimates suggest the actual number may be higher.

### Why It was Unprecedented

- The initial deadly clash since 1975 took place along the India-China border.
- It questioned the traditional idea that peace agreements are effective in preventing non-lethal conflicts.

## Agreements Violated/Strained

- The primary focus of the 1993 Agreement is to preserve peace and tranquility along the LOC. However, its effect on Galwan resulted in deadly violence, leading to a loss of trust.
- The primary focus is on the 1996 agreement, which stipulates that no firearms may be within 2 km of the LAC. The Galwan impact emphasizes that while guns are not used, lethal force may still be applied.
- The 2005 Protocol emphasizes mutual respect for patrols, whereas the Galwan incident involves increased obstruction of patrols.
- The 2013 BDCA addresses key aspects such as crisis management, but the Galwan impact mechanism failed to prevent the clash.

## Military Consequences

### Force Posture Changes

- Large-scale troop mobilization on both sides, with over 50,000 soldiers each.
- Deployment of tanks, artillery, and air defense at high altitude.
- India reinforced its positions in Galwan, Pangong Tso, Rezang La, and Rechin La.

### Rules of Engagement Shift

- Indian troops are permitted to carry firearms in forward areas. These weapons are not used regularly but act as a deterrent.

## Diplomatic and Political Fallout

### India's Response

- Clear political message – "We have entered an era where expansion is no longer happening."
- The economic countermeasures include a ban on Chinese apps, such as TikTok and WeChat.
- Examination of Chinese foreign direct investment.
- Closer alignment with Quad (India – US – Japan – Australia)

### China's Position

- Accused India of crossing the LAC.
- Refrained from transparent disclosure of casualties.
- Persistent focus on "mutual disengagement" without providing clarification on the LAC.

## Disengagement and Current Status (Post-2020)

### Partial disengagement was achieved at –

- Galwan Valley

- Pangong Tso (North and South banks)

#### **Friction points unresolved –**

- Depsang Plains
- Demchok

Buffer zones have been established, often restricting Indian patrols and causing concerns about tactical disadvantages.

## **The Strategic Significance of the Galwan Dispute**

### **For India**

- The illusion of a peaceful LAC has ended.
- Border management is now regarded as an active military front.
- Rapid enhancements in infrastructure, logistics, and surveillance

### **For China**

Asserted territorial claims, but this entailed a cost –

- International image affected
- Strategic trust with India lessened
- Brings India nearer to Western security alliances.

### **For Global Politics**

- Galwan has become a symbol of China's assertive posture.
- Reinforced Indo-Pacific security cooperation narratives

## **In Brief**

The 2020 Galwan Valley clash marked a major turning point in India–China relations, transforming the LAC from a controlled boundary into a highly militarized fault line. It exposed the limitations of confidence-building measures and underscored the roles of infrastructure, perception, and power shifts in fueling the dispute.

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## Baglihar Hydroelectric Project

The Baglihar Hydroelectric Project is a run-of-the-river hydropower facility with limited peaking pondage, located on the Chenab River. Its total installed capacity is 900 MW, divided into two 450 MW stages. The project is widely reported to be implemented and owned by the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC/JKSPDCL), with references appearing in multiple sources.

It is located in the Chenab Valley of the Ramban district, near the Jammu-Srinagar corridor. This location is both strategically important and geologically challenging due to steep slopes, landslide-prone Himalayas, and complex terrain, which pose significant technical and operational risks that could impact project timelines and costs.

It is one of the most frequently cited Indian hydropower projects in discussions about the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), highlighting its geopolitical significance and the importance of regional cooperation.

### Technical Features

#### Dam and reservoir/pondage

- Dam type – Concrete gravity dam, with a height of 143 m and length of 317 m, along with a chute spillway capable of handling high discharge rates, reflecting the project's complex technical design.
- Height – 143m, length – 317m
- Spillway – Chute type; capable of handling high discharge rates.
- The reported active pondage is quite limited; even though the project is described as run-of-river, it still features a reservoir-like impoundment.

#### Water Conductor System

The typical run-of-river Himalayan hydropower plant layout is as follows:

Intake – Head Race Tunnel (HRT) – Surge arrangements – Penstocks – Underground powerhouse – Tail Race Tunnel (TRT) – River

A civil engineering review paper on Baglihar covers construction methods and key components, such as tunnels (HRT/TRT).

#### Powerhouse and Turbines

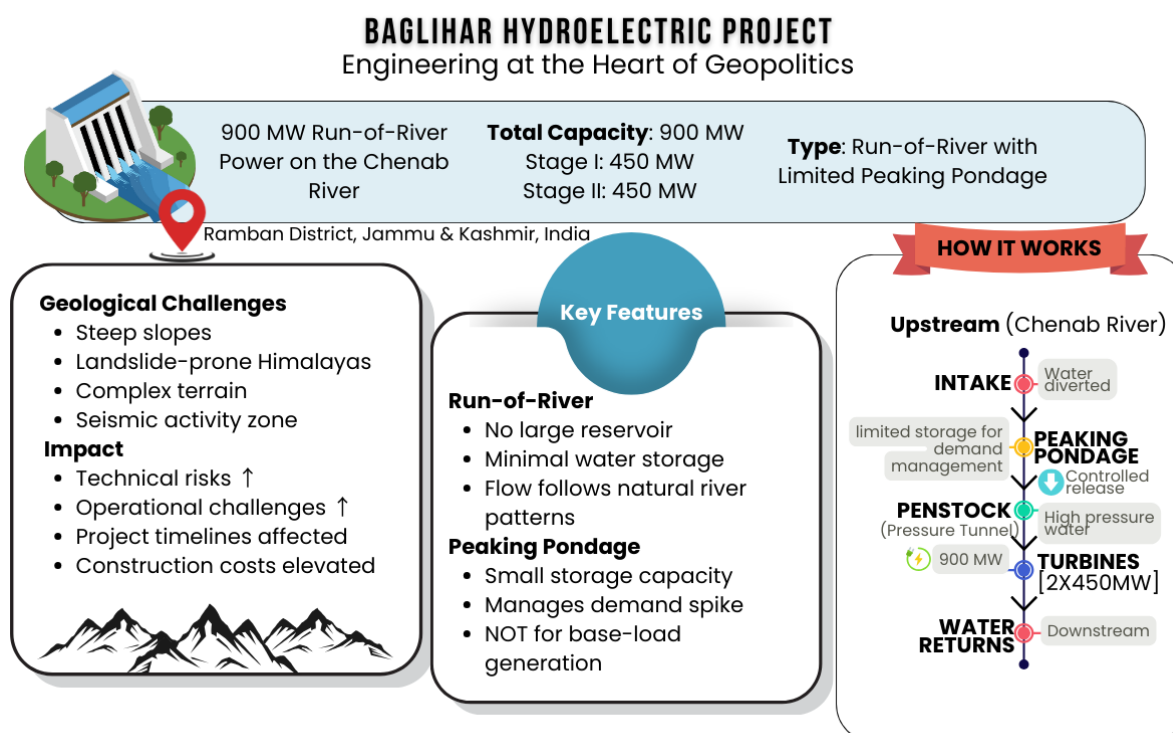
- Stage-wise machines – three sets of 10 Francis turbines, each with a capacity of 150 MW per stage (totaling six units for 900 MW).
- Hydraulic head (gross value reported) - approximately 130 meters.

## Development Timeline

- The project was conceived in the early 1990s, approved in the mid-1990s, and construction began in 1999.
- It is Stage I (450 MW), commissioned in 2008–09.
- It is Stage II (450 MW), commissioned in 2008–09.
- Stage II (450 MW) – has been completed/commissioned around 2015 – 16

## Costs and Financing

- District-level official reports that Phase I (450 MW) was commissioned at an estimated cost of around Rs 5,827 crore.
- Independent and advocacy research notes that early cost estimates have increased over time, a typical pattern in Himalayan hydropower projects due to geology, delays, and contract modifications.



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## Environmental and Social Dimensions

- In project documents, environmental flows frequently specify a minimum downstream flow during the dry season. For instance, older clearance records cite a figure like 13.6 cumecs, which appears in earlier documentation.

- Run-of-river reservoirs, as noted in some commentary, imply that impoundment and operational peaking may still impact local river ecology, sediment flow, and aquatic habitats, which are critical for environmental sustainability and stakeholder trust.
- Discussions surrounding hydropower projects in the Chenab Valley often emphasize local impacts such as land acquisition, construction, muck removal, slope stability, and community safety, with Baglihar frequently cited as a significant point of concern.

### The Indus Water Treaty Dispute

Baglihar became a landmark case when Pakistan expressed concerns that the project design could influence water flows, raising geopolitical considerations. The dispute was ultimately settled through the IWT's mechanism, which primarily addresses neutrality issues related to the project and regional water security debates.

### Why Baglihar Matters (Its Influence)

The regional 900 MW power supply greatly enhances the reliability of J&K's grid, minimizing seasonal shortages during times of good hydrological conditions.

RoR projects with pondage are typically employed for peaking support, such as managing demand spikes, rather than for base-load generation. Consequently, the details of storage and pondage design are politically sensitive within IWT.

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# 16

## Indira Doctrine

The Indira Doctrine outlines the foreign policy strategy during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's era, primarily from the late 1960s to the 1970s. While not officially announced, it embodies India's ongoing policies and initiatives in South Asia, highlighting regional leadership, strategic vision.

### Historical Context

- During the Cold War, the rivalry between the US and the USSR intensified, leading to greater engagement with major South Asian countries.
- The 1962 conflict between China and India, along with the 1965 war between India and Pakistan, revealed weaknesses in India's security defenses.
- The 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War highlighted India's crucial involvement in the region.
- India's growth as a regional influence has been achieved through both military achievements and diplomatic efforts.

The doctrine developed further after 1971, marking India's rise as the dominant power in South Asia.

### Core Principles of the Indira Doctrine

- **South Asia as India's Region of Influence**
  - India highlighted that South Asian regional issues ought to be tackled directly by the involved countries.
  - No external powers, such as the US, China, or the USSR, should be involved in regional conflicts, reinforcing India's commitment to regional stability and security for the audience.
  - This resembled a regional adaptation of the Monroe Doctrine tailored to Indian circumstances.
- **Opposition to External Intervention**
  - Significant opposition to:
    - US military presence
    - Chinese strategic containment
    - Western alliances involving Pakistan, such as the legacy of SEATO and CENTO.

India perceived external intervention as a risk to its regional stability and national security.
- **Asymmetrical Regional Relations**
  - Acceptance that –
    - India is naturally bigger and more influential.

- Neighbours have particular security sensitivities.
- India retained the right to intervene if its core interests were threatened.
- **Strategic Autonomy (Not Passive Non-Alignment):** The doctrine marks a shift from moralistic non-alignment towards pragmatic realism, demonstrating India's willingness to act decisively and independently in regional matters.
- **Shift from moralistic non-alignment towards pragmatic realism**
  - Willingness to –
    - Sign a Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation with the USSR (1971).
    - Conducted Pokhran–I nuclear test (1974).

## Key applications of the Indira Doctrine

- **Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971:** India conducted a military intervention in East Pakistan. Outcome was –
  - Creation of Bangladesh
  - Decisive defeat of Pakistan
- [Follow-up] **The 1972 India–Bangladesh Treaty** established formal cooperation between the two nations. It is a classic example of regional intervention occurring without external mediation.
- **Simla Agreement, 1972**
  - India–Pakistan relations are currently primarily founded on bilateral agreements.
  - Rejection of –
    - UN mediation
    - Third-party arbitration, especially involving the US or China.
- **Nepal, Sri Lanka, and their Smaller Neighbors**
  - Strong Opposition to –
    - Foreign military bases
    - Alignments that oppose India
  - Later Influence: Basis for the IPKF's intervention in Sri Lanka in 1987 under Rajiv Gandhi.
- **Nuclear Assertion (Pokhran I, 1974)**
  - “Peaceful Nuclear Explosion”
  - Signaled –
  - India’s rejection of nuclear apartheid
  - Independent strategic decision-making

## Indira Doctrine versus Classical Non-Alignment

- Nehruvian Non-Alignment emphasizes moral idealism, collaboration, balanced involvement, and restraint.
- Indira Doctrine encompasses a realist approach characterized by strategic, dominant, and active exclusion, along with a sense of decisiveness and assertion that underscores India's strength to the audience.

## Scholarly Interpretations

- The Realist School sees the Indira Doctrine as a way to bolster its control over power.
- The Regional Hegemony Thesis, proposed by Atul Kohli and colleagues, posits that India served as a benevolent hegemon.
- Its critical view has caused concern among neighbors and encouraged balancing measures such as the China-Pakistan axis.

## Criticism of the Indira Doctrine

- Perception of Indian Dominance alienated neighbours
- This led to –
  - Pakistan's initiatives to bring Kashmir to the international stage.
  - Smaller states looking for support from China or Western countries.
  - Excessive concentration of foreign policy decisions in a central authority.

## Legal and Contemporary Relevance

- Impacted later policies –
  - Gujral Doctrine (Revised, gentler version)
  - Neighbourhood First policy
- The core idea remains clear –
  - Objection to foreign involvement in Kashmir
  - Sensitivity regarding China's presence in South Asia

## In Brief

The Indira Doctrine marked India's shift from moralistic non-alignment to strategic realism, emphasizing regional dominance and resisting external interference in South Asia. This shift strengthened India's security and sovereignty, altered relations with neighboring countries, and had lasting geopolitical effects.

# INDIRA DOCTRINE

India's Foreign Policy in the 1970s

