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Impact of Doklam dispute on India: China relations

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Abstract

India and China are the emerging powers of the Asian continent. Cultural and trade relations between the two countries have existed since ancient times. But there is a continuous border dispute between the two nations. The current border dispute is connected to the meeting point of India, Bhutan and China border. Doklam Plateau is adjacent to the Indian border in Sikkim, where China is intent on building a road. This was the Doklam dispute. The Doklam dispute refers to the ongoing military border standoff between the Indian Armed Forces and the People's Liberation Army of China over the construction of a road in Doklam. After 72 days, the said dispute was resolved diplomatically and the armies of both the countries started withdrawing from the disputed area. In the presented research paper, an attempt has been made to throw light on various aspects of the Doklam dispute, such as - what is the Doklam dispute, what impact it had on India-China relations. How did India try to resolve the said dispute through its strategy? What was the viewpoint of the world community on the said dispute and an attempt has been made to analyze India-China relations in this context.

Keywords: India-china, Doklam, Dogan Leng, deadlock, tri-junction, border, dispute

Introduction

On the basis of huge growth in the last two decades, India has become the world's largest economy and the coming two decades are expected to be India's. India's growth rate is currently far ahead of China.

While both the countries are moving ahead in the field of development, in many other matters both sides are similar and dissimilar. The border dispute between the two countries has been going on for centuries. Apart from this, both the countries are also dreaming of becoming the biggest power in Asia. China is showing its strength on the basis of big projects like 'One Belt One Road', while India is increasing its role on global issues with the help of countries like America and Japan.

Recently, relations between India and China have increased due to the border dispute. The current border dispute is related to the meeting point of India Bhutan and China border. Doklam Plateau is adjacent to the Indian border in Sikkim, where China is intent on building a road. Some part of Doklam Plateau also falls in Bhutan. In Bhutan this path is called 'Doklam', while in China it is called 'Dogan Leng'. Objective of the study: The objective of the presented research is to clarify its perspective in the relations between India and China by considering the Doklam dispute and to throw light on the border related issues existing between India and China. This controversy made it clear that China is still suffering from its old imperialist policy and tries to carry out this policy from time to time whenever the opportunity arises. As a result of the standoff, India has established itself as a responsible, decisive and credible actor in international relations and the effectiveness of India's diplomatic skills was visible.

The Doklam border dispute is being assessed from the perspective of the ambitions and compulsions of both the countries. In June 2017, on the invitation of Bhutan, Indian forces had stopped Chinese troops from entering Bhutan's land, even though India had reiterated its proposal for peace talks. It was coming, India and China are the two biggest emerging powers of the world where China was continuously maintaining an aggressive stance.

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Doklam dispute

In recent times, 'Doklam dispute' has emerged as a strategic issue between India and China. Asia has become the focal point of global political discussion due to India's military standoff with China at the 'Doklam' plateau. The Doklam issue was similar in one respect to the incidents at Depsang in 2013 and Chumar in 2014. In all three incidents, China tried to change the 'ground reality' to capture more land on the border. The only difference in the Doklam incident was that China was doing this by entering the border of Bhutan. China's intention behind this was to increase its dominance by giving a new shape to the borders of the three countries. On the other hand, this incident was different for India also because it had to send its army to a third country for its security concerns and to protect the border of Bhutan.

Doklam refers to the ongoing military border standoff between the Indian Armed Forces and the People's Liberation Army of China over the construction of a road. The standoff began on June 18, 2017, when about 300 to 270 Indian soldiers along with two bulldozers crossed the India-China border to stop the PLA from building a road in Doklam.

Historical background

The main reason for the Doklam dispute is its location. It is a tri-junction, where the borders of India, China and Bhutan meet. Actually, there is a dispute between China and Bhutan regarding this area. Presently this place is occupied by China and Bhutan claims it.

India's role in Doklam dispute

This is because of the defense treaty between India and Bhutan. Under this treaty, India is responsible for the defense and foreign affairs of Bhutan. Bhutan and India have a close relationship of mutual trust and enduring friendship since 1949. There is a military cooperation agreement between the two countries. Article 2 of the Treaty of Friendship signed by India and Bhutan in 2007 states "In view of the close relations of friendship and cooperation between Bhutan and India, the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Government of the Republic of India shall cooperate with each other and with each other on issues related to their national interests.

Historically Doklam was part of the Yatangu market of Tibet. It is a disputed area claimed by Bhutan and China. Doklam is located 15 kilometers south-east of the Nathula Pass on Indian territory. This is India and China is separated by 30 kilometres. However, China says that the name 'Doklam' was used for the pastureland of Tibet. Before 1960, Bhutan's herders used to go to this area only after taking permission from them, but no historical evidence has been found for this claim of China.

Doklam dispute: 2017

Presently this dispute has emerged because China is building a road under One Belt One Road (OBOR) to connect to Tibet. China wants to build a road through an area at the tri-junction point between India, Bhutan and China, which could prove dangerous for the security of both Bhutan and India.

On June 29, 2017, Bhutan first protested to China against the construction of this road, and Bhutan also increased its border security by keeping its army on high alert. India has also expressed its disagreement and protested against this

road construction work. Bhutan does not have any diplomatic relations with India but has friendly relations. Bhutan also sought help from India against this Chinese invasion. China has not liked India's disagreement, due to which this dispute arose.

The main reason for the dispute between India and China is that the Siliguri Corridor, part of Chikan Neg, connecting India to the Northeast, is just 100 kilometers away from Chumbi Valley. Also, China has made its reach from Chumbi Valley to Doklam by building roads, due to which China's Neighbors become aggressive towards the country, this can threaten India's security. India is now aware of the India-China war of 1962. He did not want to repeat the history of defeat, hence keeping his safety in mind he strongly opposed this construction work.

The standoff between the Indian Army and China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), which began on June 16, 2017, continued for 74 days and ended on August 28, 2017. The standoff between the armies of the two Asian nuclear powers emerged after China tried to change the status quo in favor of India in the disputed region. PLA troops arrived with bulldozers and diggers and began excavation and construction of a high mountain road in the disputed area between China and Bhutan, across the border from the Indian state of Sikkim. The construction of the road was opposed by the Bhutanese army but the PLA troops ignored the objections of the Bhutanese troops and pushed them back. Therefore, Indian soldiers from Bhutan side crossed the border on 18 June 2017 and blocked the construction work in the disputed area. China objected to the Indian intervention and, as a result, demanded the withdrawal of Indian troops from the disputed area. As India refused to do so, Beijing consequently launched psychological warfare against New Delhi to frustrate and pressure it, leading to the possibility of a 'mini war' between the two Asian neighbours. Both sides engaged in hand-to-hand combat and tensions, ultimately resulting in a diplomatic solution in which both sides agreed to the withdrawal of forces.

End of India China military standoff

Although the military standoff between India and China had raised concerns of military conflicts in both countries, it ended on August 28, 2017, as both sides agreed to withdraw their forces to the pre-standoff position. Were done. India's Ministry of External Affairs said on August 28, 2017 that the withdrawal of border personnel of India and China in Doklam has been completed expeditiously. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi also announced that the border standoff which was caused by Indian encroachment has ended as India has withdrawn its troops from the area. Wang Yi expects the Indian side to learn 'lessons' from the bilateral military standoff in Doklam and prevent such standoffs in the future.

The military standoff between Beijing and New Delhi ended through diplomatic means on August 28, 2017, with the Indian Army having an advantageous position compared to the Chinese Army, at the BRICS summit held on 3-4 September 2017 in China.

Impact of Doklam dispute on India-China relations

The India-China bilateral military standoff at Doklam and its subsequent Deconfliction, has had wide-ranging political implications for India and other countries, particularly Japan and ASEAN countries. Moreover, it gave a strong and clear

message to China and other countries towards India. First, the end of the standoff through negotiations marked a moral, strategic and diplomatic victory for New Delhi relative to Beijing.

The Doklam dispute demonstrated the effectiveness of India's diplomatic skills. Beijing did not expect such a strong response and firm pushback from India on this issue. Since India was not a direct part of the territorial dispute and the dispute was between China and Bhutan. The way the army and diplomats, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, reprimanded China on the Doklam issue, it sent a message to the world that India is not only ready for its own interests but also to protect its neighboring countries.

When China launched psychological warfare through its media such as Global Times Xinhua News Agency, China Daily and others, spokespersons of China's foreign and defense ministries resorted to threats, disarmament and tactics to achieve the desired results against India. And used aggressive language to create pressure. Nevertheless, India did not bother about the psychological warfare launched against it by China and resolved the impasse through talks. Gave a 'measured' and balanced response showing its determination to resolve the issue. Other countries of the continent were also keeping an eye on the tension between the two Asian superpowers (China-India). Especially those countries which have disputes with China regarding territorial or maritime boundaries. The message that has emerged from this conflict is that it is possible to stop China's expansionist ambitions.

The standoff also exposed China's expansionist and unilateral designs in the Asian continent. China's psychological warfare against India weakened its image at the international level. India's role in the Doklam border dispute with China on Bhutan's land sent a message on the global stage that India is a country that does not back down from its words. America also sometimes retreats after giving threats, but the countries of the world saw India's steadfast attitude in the Doklam issue.

Bilateral relations between India and China declined as a result of the Doklam dispute. China did not expect India to intervene to protect the interests of smaller neighboring countries like Bhutan, jeopardizing its growing relations with China. If China reduces or removes its non-tariff barriers against Indian products, both countries can fully benefit from bilateral economic and commercial cooperation. The impasse was not good for the rapid growth of bilateral business relations. As a result of the impasse, India has established itself as a responsible, decisive and reliable actor in international relations. New Delhi took a mature and decisive approach to resolve the standoff when Beijing launched psychological warfare against India by distorting facts and threatening them with consequences more serious than in 1962.

India's stance has strengthened bilateral relations between New Delhi and Thimphu. India's stance has enhanced its standing as a trusted partner in its Neighborhood and extended Neighborhood with strong ties between New Delhi and Thimphu.

India's cooperation with Asian countries has strengthened as a result of the Doklam dispute. Asian countries, wary of China's growing power, saw the Doklam issue as a boon.

Following suggestions can be given to prevent incidents like Doklam dispute

1. A hotline should be set up between India and China to resolve this issue without any delay.
2. The ongoing negotiations between the Permanent Representatives on the border question should be concluded as soon as possible.
3. Summit level talks should be organized between the leaders of the three countries to end the dispute.

Conclusion

India should clarify its stand on this issue and remain firm on it. However, it should also be noted that small border disputes are not beneficial for India. For now, India should immediately follow the LAC border rules and resolve this problem through future meetings with China's political and military officials. Ultimately, it can be said that at present the diplomatic solution to the Doklam dispute is going to provide peace not only to India and China but also to other countries of the world, but looking at the attitude of China, it is not an idle fear that it will soon again resort to border dispute. Give a taste to. Therefore, there is a need to be cautious of China.

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