



Increased Chinese Transgression

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Why in News

Recently, there has been a marked increase in the number of **Chinese transgressions** across the disputed India-China border in Ladakh.

In Ladakh, a **surge of 75%** have been observed in **2019** compared to 2018 and the **first four months of 2020** have also witnessed an **increase** compared to 2019.

Key Points

Chinese Transgression:

- The **border** between India and China is **not fully demarcated** and the **Line of Actual Control** (LAC) is neither clarified nor confirmed by the two countries.
- This leads to different perceptions of the LAC for the two sides while soldiers from either side try to patrol the area.
- **Observation Methods:** Use of surveillance equipment, face-offs by patrols, reliable indications by locals, or evidence left by the Chinese in the form of wrappers, biscuit packets etc. in an unmanned area.
- Official data shows that **80%** of Chinese transgressions across the LAC since 2015 have taken place in **four locations** of which **three are in eastern Ladakh** in the western sector.
 - These areas of eastern Ladakh are **Pangong Tso, Trig Heights and Burtse**.
 - The fourth area is the **Dichu Area/Madan Ridge area** (Arunachal Pradesh) of the Eastern sector.
- **Implications of Increased Number of Transgressions:**
 - It is an indicator of **increased Chinese assertiveness**.
 - Even if there are no major incidents, it should not be taken lightly.
 - So far, there has been **no major standoff** between the two sides after the 73-day **Doklam standoff** on Sikkim-Bhutan border in 2017.

Different Sectors of India-China Border

- India and China share a boundary that stretches **3,488 km** from **Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The **border dispute** still stands **unresolved**.
- It is **divided into three sectors**:
 - **Western Sector**: It falls in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh and is 1597 km long.
It witnesses the highest **transgressions between** the two sides.
 - **Middle Sector**: It falls in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and is 545 km long.
It is the **least disputed** sector between the two countries.
 - **Eastern Sector**: It falls in the states of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and is 1346 km long.

Concerns

- India is worried about the **tensions at Naku La in Sikkim and at Galwan river and Pangong Tso in Ladakh**.
- The increased transgressions lead to **more tensions** between both countries which are already struggling to contain the **Covid-19** pandemic.
- **Nepal's recent behaviour on the Mansarovar Link Road** raising the **border map issue** also raises Indian concerns.
- The **constant accusations** on each other also cause tensions and disrupt the peace on borders.
Recently, Chinese media accused India of building defence facilities in the **Galwan Valley region** of the contested **Aksai Chin area**.
- India and China are both **nuclear-armed countries** with **strong militaries** and the constant border conflicts are not a desirable thing.

Way Forward

- In the **Wuhan and Mahabalipuram summits**, both China and India had **reaffirmed** that they will make efforts to **ensure peace and tranquility in the border** areas.
- On 1st April, 2020 **India and China completed their 70 years of diplomatic relations**.
- Both countries have **resolved border issues peacefully in the past** four decades which gives the **hope** that the tensions will subside soon.
- **Establishment of peace** between the two big powers of such an **important geopolitical region** is essential for their own **growth and development** as well as for **maintenance of global peace**.

Source: IE