



Senkaku Island Dispute

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Why in News

Recently, China called the **Japan-USA mutual security pact** a product of the **Cold War** following USA's criticism of the presence of Chinese coast guard vessels in Japanese-claimed territorial waters.

Key Points

About:

- The 1960 Japan-USA mutual security treaty **assures the USA would come to Japan's aid in the event of an outside attack on Japanese** forces or territory.
- The USA criticized China as the Chinese ships have been **repeatedly encroaching the Japanese territorial waters** surrounding the Senkaku island.
- Whereas China has long accused the USA of maintaining a "**Cold War mentality**" due to which it tries to bring Japan in its Bloc against China.



The Senkaku Island Dispute:

○ About:

- The Senkaku Island dispute concerns a territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands known as:
 - **Senkaku Islands** in Japan,
 - **Diaoyu Islands** in China, and
 - **Tiaoyutai Islands** in Taiwan.
- Both Japan and China claim ownership of these islands.

○ Location:

Eight uninhabited islands lie in the **East China Sea**. They have a total area of about 7 sq km and lie **northeast of Taiwan**.

○ Strategic Importance:

Islands are close to strategically important shipping lanes, offer rich fishing grounds and are thought to contain oil deposits.

○ Japan's Claim:

- After **World War II**, Japan renounced claims to a number of territories and islands including Taiwan in the **1951 Treaty of San Francisco**.
- But under the treaty, the Nansei Shoto islands came under USA trusteeship and were then returned to Japan in 1971.
- Japan says that **Senkaku islands are part of the Nansei Shoto islands** and hence they also belong to Japan.
 - Recently, **a local council in southern Japan has approved a bill** to change the name of an area containing Senkaku Islands from Tonoshiro to Tonoshiro Senkaku.
- Besides, China **raised no objections to the San Francisco deal**. Only since the 1970s, when the issue of oil resources in the area emerged, Chinese and Taiwanese authorities began pressing their claims.

○ China's Claim:

- These Islands have been part of its territory since ancient times, serving as important fishing grounds administered by the province of Taiwan.
- When Taiwan was returned in the **Treaty of San Francisco**, China said the islands – as part of it – should also have been returned.

Source:TH