



## CURRENT AFFAIRS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO.-09AAPCAI478E1ZH)  
Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 02,  
Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, CONTACT NO:-8448440231

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# Jurisdiction Enhancement of BSF GS-3 Security Challenges & their Management in Border Areas, Various Security Forces & Agencies & Their Mandate

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## CONTEXT

Recently, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** has issued a notification to widen the jurisdiction of **Border Security Force (BSF)** for **seizure, search and arrest up to 50km from the international border** in Assam, West Bengal and Punjab.

## ABOUT BSF

- The BSF was raised in **1965, after the India-Pakistan war**. It is one of the **seven Central Armed Police Forces** of the Union of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Other Central Armed Police Forces are: **Assam Rifles (AR), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), National Security Guards (NSG) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**.
- BSF has a 2.65-lakh force deployed along the **Pakistan and Bangladesh borders**. It is deployed on Indo-Pakistan International Border, Indo-Bangladesh **International Border, Line of Control (LoC) along with Indian Army and in Anti-Naxal Operations**.
- It has an air wing, marine wing, an artillery regiment, and commando units.
- BSF has been defending **Sir Creek in Arabian Sea and Sundarban delta** in the Bay of Bengal with its state of art fleet of Water Crafts. BSF has an instrumental role in helping state administration in **maintaining Law and Order and conducting peaceful elections**. BSF has been crusading against natural calamity to save precious human lives as and when warranted.
- It contributes dedicated services to the **UN peacekeeping Mission** by sending a large contingent of its trained manpower every year.
- It has been termed as the **First Line of Defence of Indian Territories**.

## ABOUT NOTIFICATION

This notification **replaces a 2014 order under the BSF Act, 1968**, which also covered the States of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya. It also specifically mentions the **two newly created Union Territories- J&K and Ladakh**.

The violations for which the BSF carries out search and seizure include **smuggling of narcotics, other prohibited items, illegal entry of foreigners and offences punishable** under any other Central Act among others.

After a suspect has been detained or a consignment seized within the specified area, the BSF **can only conduct “preliminary questioning”** and has to **hand over the suspect to the local police within 24 hours**. The BSF does not have the powers to prosecute crime suspects.

### Issues Involved

**Public Order vs Security of State:** **Public order**, which connotes public peace, safety and tranquility, is primarily the responsibility of a State Government (**Entry 1, State list**). However, when there is a serious public disorder which threatens the **security or defence of the State** or of the country itself (**entry 1 of Union list**), the situation becomes a matter of concern for the Union Government also.

**Weakening Spirit of Federalism:** Without obtaining the concurrence of the state government, the notification amounts to encroachment on the powers of the states. The Punjab Government has asserted that this notification is Centre's **encroachment under the guise of security or development**.

**Affecting Functioning of BSF:** Policing in the hinterland is not the role of a border guarding force, rather it would **weaken the capacity of the Border**

**Security Force** in discharging its primary duty of guarding the international border.

### **Constitutional Viewpoint on Deployment of Armed forces in States**

- Under **Article 355**, the Centre can deploy its forces to protect a state against “**external aggression and internal disturbance**,” even when the state concerned does not requisition the Centre’s assistance and is reluctant to receive central forces.
- In the case of a state’s opposition to the deployment of armed forces of the Union, the right course for the Centre is to first issue directives under Article 355 to the state concerned.
- In the event of the state not complying with the directive of the Central government, the Centre can take further action under **Article 356 (President’s Rule)**.

### **Way Forward**

- **Consent of State is Desirable:** Given the security condition in India’s neighbourhood, the existing relationship between the Union armed forces and the State civil authorities do not require any change. However, before the Union Government deploys its armed forces, it is desirable that the State Government should be consulted, wherever feasible.
- **State Becoming Self-Reliant:** Each State Government may work out, in consultation with the Union Government, short term and long-term arrangements for strengthening its Armed Police. The objective will be to become largely self-reliant in the matter of Armed Police so that the assistance of the Union armed forces will be necessary only in cases of very severe disturbances.
- **Regional Arrangement:** A group of neighbouring States may, by consensus, have a standing arrangement for the use of the Armed

Police of one another in case of need. The **Zonal Council** would be the best forum for achieving consensus of the States within a zone for devising such an arrangement.

- **Police Reforms:** It is high time for carrying out much needed **Police reforms** as highlighted by various committees and judgment.

Anshum Verma

## Van Gogh : An Eminent Artist (GS Paper 1 : Art and Culture )

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### Context

- Recently an artwork of Van Gogh which had been looted by Nazi's during 2nd world war was auctioned in an exhibition and the artist lovers appreciated this art work
- Features of the Artwork of the Van Gogh
- He used water colour in his art work
- Initially Van Gogh used only two colours black and white in his painting
- Initially he remained focused on the learning techniques of the paintings, how colours should be used in the painting of landscape and emotions also . When he satisfied with his learning
- He began adding in colors and his bold palette became one of the most recognizable features of his later work.
- His depiction of figures is too light so sometimes the landscape can be admired without the need for color.

- Initially he used dark and melancholy colors only in his painting so that those colours would suit his subjects at the time mainly for the painting of the pictures of miners and peasant farm laborers.
- Gradually he changed his style and when he moved to Paris in 1886 and was greatly influenced by the work of the Impressionists and Neo-Impressionists, he opted new style of painting
- After that he started to use a lighter palette of reds, yellows, oranges, greens, and blues, and experimented with the broken brush strokes of the Impressionists.
- He also attempted the pointillist technique of the Neo-Impressionists whereby contrasting dots of pure color are optically mixed into the resulting color by the viewer.
- He was highly influenced by Japanese techniques of painting so he painted dark outlines around objects, filling these in with areas of thick color.
- He used various colours as per his moods and for yellow colour he used sunflowers
- Van Gogh started to imitate Gauguin's technique of painting from memory during this time which resulted in his paintings becoming more attractive and less realistic.
- Van Gogh's emerging style saw him emotionally reacting to subjects through his use of color and brush work.
- Use of pencil, black chalk, red chalk, blue chalk, reed pen and charcoal
- He made his drawing on a variety of papers
- He used any material available to him.
- His drawing looks very veriful because he used colours as per the requirement .
- He made almost 150 watercolor paintings during his lifetime.
- He used watercolor just to assimilate the colors but gradually water colour has become unique characteristic of his artwork
- During the latter part of the 19th century he went on to create a series of ten graphic works: nine lithographs and one etching.
- The potato Eaters was his masterpiece and it reached to millions of the people

- His subjects of the artwork was Figure, Landscapes, Cityscapes, Scenery

### **About Van Gogh**

- Initially belonging from Holland or Netherland, Van Gogh , an eminent painter of the 19th century born on 30 Mar 1853. His art work is related with Post-Impressionism
- He was a specific artist who worked with a sense of urgency which often caused him a great deal of stress.
- He expressed emotion from his brush and In his painting we see boldness also

When Germany controlled some of the regions of Europe , Nazies had looted the art work of Van Gogh , but the protection of the artworks is definitely appreciable.

(Dr Anshul Bajpai)

# **SINO-INDIA BORDER ISSUES AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS : [ GS II, International Relations ]**

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**CONTEXT:** In the last 10 months, the Chinese Western Theatre Command has seen four commanders, two of them — Generals Zhang Xudong and Xu Qiling, both ‘rising stars’ of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) — moved out for serious health issues. Still Indian and Chinese soldiers will remain deployed against each other in the icy cold deserts of Ladakh, without any respite.

### **An aggressive focus on India**

The obstinate Chinese stance in recent weeks shows that the PLA is not interested in ending the prolonged deployment.

Apart from the verbal attacks, China has also made massive infrastructure construction, induction of a large quantity of modern equipment, and a sharp increase in the number of military exercises directed towards India in Ladakh, and in the middle and eastern sectors of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) i.e. 3,488 km.

1. The PLA incursion into Barahoti in Uttarakhand in August (a demilitarised zone)
2. The increment in frequency and the duration of Chinese patrolling in Arunachal Pradesh
3. Earlier this month 200 PLA soldiers were stopped by an Indian patrol in Arunachal Pradesh’s Tawang area.

Western scholars with Chinese connections point to two major drivers for the PLA’s aggressive approach against India:-

1. China’s **institutional interest.**

China has the boundary issue only with India, it emphasises India’s importance to China.

2. PLA's view that the Indian military is increasing its presence on "Chinese territory" in the border areas in the last 10-12 years.

#### OTHER FACTORS-

- After the UPA government's decision to build infrastructure and raise additional forces for the China border, Indian army's patrolling increased there.
- The Doklam stand-off of 2017, when Indian soldiers walked onto Chinese claimed territory of Bhutan, was a turning point.

Western scholars say that there is a strong constituency in the PLA that wants to put India in its place, evoking an eerie parallel to the discourse in Mao's China after 1959.

#### **New Delhi's response w.r.t. PLA's actions on the LAC –**

- Indian Army has also inducted more modern military platforms, equipments and systems on the Chinese border, backed by infrastructure construction and the deployment of new troops.
- The Indian military always maintained a **defensive deterrence** against the PLA which worked for nearly three decades before breaking down completely in 2020.
- India's advantage in dissuading a major military conflict with China is that as a lesser power, it has to only deny an outright military victory to the PLA for the top Chinese leadership to lose face.

#### **DEVELOPMENTAL IMPACTS –**

- Sharp decline in the Indian economy after demonetisation, further battered by the Government's poor handling of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

- Inability of New Delhi to generate enough resources for military modernisation.

According to **Ashley Tellis's** calculations (2016) → Indian Air Force (IAF) would need about 60 fighter jet squadrons by 2020 (currently 30) for a serious two-front threat from China and Pakistan.

DEVELOPMENTS THAT FAILED IN THE DIRECTION OF RESOLVING THE ISSUES :

1. The **technological asymmetry** with the PLA is rapidly increasing, that in a few years it is feared that India and China will be fighting two different generations of war.
2. The divisive majoritarian politics practised by the ruling NDA party has left India vulnerable. The ruling ideology has also held captive the country's foreign policy in the neighbourhood, adversely affecting Indian interests.
3. The U.A.E-brokered backchannel deal with Pakistan failed due to New Delhi's Kashmir policies, adding to one more military threat.
4. There is hardly any ceasefire on the L.O.C.
5. Pakistani infiltration is hardly checked, they are still able to include local Kashmiri youth willing to pick up the gun, thus opening another half-front for the military.
6. The recent disturbance with Bangladesh on the treatment of religious minorities or the ongoing turmoil over the influx of Myanmar refugees in Mizoram has left India, internally unbalanced, weaker in the region to deal with China.
7. The geopolitics arising out of the great power competition in the Indo-Pacific.

Both the AUKUS and the QUAD, leave the questions of actual support during a Sino-India military crisis unanswered.

**NO POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY ?**

- In the Ladakh border crisis, the Government and its supporters were in denial about the Chinese ingress into Indian territory for months, including the Prime Minister's statement that no one had entered Indian territory.
- Use of euphemisms like 'friction points' for places of Chinese ingress or the removal of an official report about Chinese presence across the LAC from the Defence Ministry's website
- Non-acknowledgement of Indian soldiers in Chinese captivity after the Galwan clash have been done to evade political accountability.
- Parliament has not been allowed to ask questions or seek clarifications; nor has the parliamentary standing committee deliberated upon the issue.
- Large sections of Indian media have been complicit in this cover up, keeping the public in the dark and blocking the feedback loop that keeps democratic governments honest and responsive.

#### **TO CONCLUDE-**

New Delhi's take on the Sino-India border crisis in the last 20 months has oscillated between **denial and bluster**. New Delhi's avowed aim is to restore the status quo on the LAC in Ladakh that existed before May 2020. In areas of disengagement, a new status quo has been created which curtails Indian patrolling rights while the PLA remains ensconced on Indian territory in Depsang, Hot Springs and Demchok. India now has no choice but to be prepared for all the happenings on the Sino-India border. India need to get prepared for all this and has to focus on financial resources with respect to the required expenditure on army and its preparedness.

**BY,**

**RAJEEV YADAV**

**FACULTY OF G.S. AND HISTORY OPTIONAL**

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