



## SECURITY THREATS OF INDIA BY CHINA - GS II & III MAINS

**Q.** “The contemporary India-China relationship is a complex interplay of various factors that shape their bilateral interactions”. Discuss the statement in the light of present security threats of India by China. (15 marks, 250 words)

**News:** China is India’s greatest military threat

**What's in the news?**

- Recently, some defence analysts said that China is India’s greatest military threat.

**Key takeaways:**

- The contemporary India-China relationship is a complex interplay of various factors that shape their bilateral interactions.
- These factors hold significant implications for regional stability in Asia. From historical disputes to economic ties and geopolitical ambitions, the dynamics between these two Asian giants have far-reaching consequences for the overall stability of the region.

**Security threats of India from China:**

- **Naxalism:** Chinese state and non-state actors provide financial, technical and material support to naxalites and Maoists in central India.
- **Border tension:** China claims most of Arunachal Pradesh as its territory. This border tension between both countries is a greatest security threat to India.
  - The 1962 war and 2017 Dokhlam issue, both happened for border disputes.
- **Cyber Threat:** State sponsored cyber attacks on Indian strategic places is a threat to India.
  - Chinese state-sponsored actors may have deployed malware into Indian power grids and seaports as border tensions between India and China began escalating.
- **Border Disputes and Territorial Claims:** The unresolved border issues, particularly in the regions of Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh, have led to periodic tensions and military standoffs.
  - The lack of a defined border has resulted in differing perceptions of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), leading to incidents that challenge bilateral trust and stability.
- **Kongpo Dam:** Destabilise India’s border and hydrological security due to the close proximity of the Kongpo (proposed site for building dam) to India’s border.
  - Construction of a ‘super dam’ in Metok means the threat expands all the way to Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
  - The India would inevitably face a twin disaster of water shortage in the winter and flash floods in the summer.



- **Pearl of string strategy:** China follows this strategy by providing financial and material assistance to India's neighbours. This strategy isolates India from its neighbours.
  - Eg. Sri Lanka, Pakistan are some of the recent examples.
- **Terrorism:** China provides money support and military training support to terrorists to create an unstable situation in India.
- **Pakistan:** China has always looked at Pakistan as a counter to India's influence in South Asia.
- **Myanmar:** Recent military coup in Myanmar with the support of China threatens the stability of India's northeastern part.
- **Sri Lanka:** China try to use its debt trap diplomacy and its economic prowess by gaining projects in Sri Lanka, particularly in close proximity to India. It also try to use its developed infrastructure as a overseas naval base in the Indian Ocean. Example - Hambantota Port.

## WAY FORWARD:

### 1. Dialogue and Diplomacy:

- Prioritize consistent and open channels of communication between India and China to prevent misunderstandings and mitigate conflicts. Regular diplomatic dialogues and mechanisms should be established to address issues promptly and transparently.

### 2. Conflict Avoidance Mechanisms:

- Strengthen existing conflict avoidance mechanisms along the border, such as hotlines and joint military exercises, to reduce the risk of unintended military confrontations. Implement confidence-building measures to enhance trust and transparency.

### 3. Economic Engagement and Trade Balance:

- Focus on enhancing economic cooperation and trade relations while addressing concerns related to the trade imbalance.
- Explore avenues for mutual benefit, such as infrastructure development projects and joint ventures, to promote sustainable economic growth.

### 4. Regional Collaborative Initiatives:

- Engage in regional initiatives that promote collaboration, stability and development in the broader Asian region.
- Encourage joint projects, partnerships, and dialogues within platforms like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to address common challenges.

### 5. Cultural and Educational Exchanges:

- Foster people-to-people connections through cultural exchanges, educational programs, and tourism. Highlight shared historical and cultural ties to build understanding and goodwill, which can positively impact bilateral relations.

India and China, by fostering diplomatic collaboration and strengthening economic ties, can effectively tackle global challenges. Their joint efforts in international platforms and commitment to constructive engagement can lead to innovative solutions and contribute to a more stable and harmonious global landscape.