

China and India agree to peace over border

10th June, 2020



China and India have agreed to resolve a border dispute that was a worrying source of tension between them. The past few weeks have seen tit-for-tat attacks between the world's two most populous nations. The skirmishes between the two nuclear powers took place high up in the Himalayas. There have been various flashpoints along the long border that divides the two countries. Chinese and Indian officials met on Saturday in Ladakh, an area adjacent to the border. They agreed to "peacefully resolve" their dispute in a "cordial" meeting. India's Foreign Ministry said: "Both sides agreed to peacefully resolve the situation in the border areas in accordance with various bilateral agreements."

The area under contention is called the Line of Actual Control (LAC). This was a border established in 1993. It is one of the longest land borders in the world. Minor conflicts have taken place along it since the bloody Sino-Indian War (also known as the Indo-China War) in 1962. The glacial terrain along the LAC means the physical location of the border is shifting. This has made it difficult to pinpoint what areas of the craggy landscape belong to which country. China said: "This year marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and both sides agreed that an early resolution would contribute to the further development of that relationship".

Sources: cnn.com / arabnews.com / cnbc.com

Writing

There should be no borders between countries. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

resolve / border / dispute / skirmish / nuclear / power / flashpoint / cordial / area / contention / land / conflict / bloody / location / pinpoint / landscape / relations

True / False

- a) The article said the border was a worrying source of tension. T / F
- b) There have been tit-for-tat attacks along the border in recent weeks. T / F
- c) The skirmishes between China and India were in the Himalayan foothills. T / F
- d) The two nations agreed to conform to bilateral agreements. T / F
- e) The current border was established in 1983. T / F
- f) The two countries fought a bloody war in 1993. T / F
- g) Shifting ice means the border between the two nations keeps moving. T / F
- h) Diplomatic relations between the two countries started in 1950. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. resolve | a. friendly |
| 2. tit for tat | b. ground |
| 3. skirmishes | c. retaliation |
| 4. cordial | d. savage |
| 5. agreements | e. play a part in |
| 6. contention | f. settle |
| 7. bloody | g. accords |
| 8. terrain | h. represented |
| 9. marked | i. clashes |
| 10. contribute | j. disagreement |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think when you cross a national border?
- c) What is the role of a diplomat?
- d) Do you think you would be a good diplomat?
- e) What would have happened if the skirmishes led to war?
- f) How do you think the China-India relationship should develop?
- g) How important is it for China and India to get on well?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the diplomats?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. China and India have agreed to | a. resolution |
| 2. a worrying source of | b. flashpoints |
| 3. skirmishes | c. to the border |
| 4. There have been various | d. borders in the world |
| 5. an area adjacent | e. tension between them |
| 6. one of the longest land | f. pinpoint |
| 7. since the bloody | g. relations |
| 8. This has made it difficult to | h. resolve a border dispute |
| 9. the establishment of diplomatic | i. Sino-Indian War |
| 10. an early | j. between the two |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the skirmishes on the China-India border?
- What do you think of your country's borders?
- Has there ever been any trouble along your country's borders?
- What sources of tension are there between your country and others?
- How worrying would a China-India conflict be?
- Have you ever done anything that was "tit-for-tat"?
- Can all border disputes be resolved cordially?
- Which border dispute needs resolving most?

Spelling

- agreed to eerovls a border dispute
- the world's two most opsuoup! nations
- The kmieisshrs between the two nuclear powers
- an area jdncatae to the border
- in a ialrocd meeting
- in accordance with various aarlItbie agreements
- The area under tnoeioctnn
- a border asselitebdh in 1993
- The glacial tnearir
- areas of the craggy nsdaelacp
- pidiamcolt relations
- nutorbiect to the further development

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. i	4. a	5. g
6. j	7. d	8. b	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Compromise

You think compromise is the most important diplomatic skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their skills aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): open-mindedness, tact or a sense of humour.

Role B – Open-Mindedness

You think open-mindedness is the most important diplomatic skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their skills aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): compromise, tact or a sense of humour.

Role C – Tact

You think tact is the most important diplomatic skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their skills aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): open-mindedness, compromise or a sense of humour.

Role D – A Sense of Humour

You think a sense of humour is the most important diplomatic skill. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their skills aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): open-mindedness, tact or compromise.

Speaking – Diplomacy

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important diplomatic skills at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| • Conflict resolution | • Compromise |
| • Emotional intelligence | • Reflection |
| • A sense of humour | • Be open-minded |
| • Nonverbal communication | • Tact |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.