# Doklam Uncertainty

## What is the issue?

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- The resolution derived in long standing Doklam dispute by India and China is uncertain.
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- A trilateral pact engaging India-China-Bhutan is needed to address the long standing dispute.
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## What is the present status of Doklam dispute?

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- After a long standoff in doklam India and china paused the dispute peacefully by diplomatic moves.
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- The 19th national congress of the communist party of China highlighted that the expeditious disengagement at Doklam was a peaceful and dialogue-based resolution.
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- Even India has earlier stated that the de-escalation was based on mutual agreement, this reflects a trust factor.
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- Nevertheless, both countries have embraced the disengagement as a diplomatic victory for their own sides.
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- This resulted in subduing strong public sentiments in both countries.
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- China even termed it as a victory for Asia, as these two big powers definitely have proven reasons to cooperate rather than to engage in conflict.
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## Why Doklam issue may haunt Sino-India ties in future?

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- **Lack of legal frameworks -**The bilateral politico-legal frameworks are inadequate, with varying connotations and intent, both countries have been referring to the 1890 Convention of Calcutta signed between Great Britain and China.
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- Such boundary disputes involving China, India and Bhutan had also been referred to in the letters exchanged in 1959 between Prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Zhou Enlai.
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- These letters are frequently interpreted by both countries to justify their contemporary stances.
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- **Volatile Location -**India argues that the tri-junction lies near Batang La, China positions it further down south at Mount Gamochen.
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- Persisting claims and counter-claims related to patrolling the disengaged region, widening of the road by China just 10 km from Doklam, and the activity of armed forces is never-ending.
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- In 1965-66, China complained about the presence of Indian troops in the Doklam region.
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- But Bhutan claimed that the area in question was under Bhutan’s sovereignty.
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- India claimed that Chinese intrusions happened at regular intervals in 1988 as well as in 2000.
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- **Stand of Bhutan -**It cannot be dictated to either by India or China.
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- Both India and China have been trying to make inroads into Bhutan but the post-Doklam scenario clearly suggests that China has the advantage.

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- China and Bhutan entered into a border-related agreement in 1988 and subsequently in 1998 prohibiting unilateral measures.
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- With India too, Bhutan had the friendship treaty to guide its foreign policy.
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- However, since the treaty was amended in 2007, Bhutan is under no obligation to seek such guidance.
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**Source: Business Line**

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