



China Passes New Border Law

Why in News

Recently, China's legislature has adopted a **new border law** that calls on the **state and military to safeguard territory and "combat any acts" that undermine China's territorial claims.**

- The new land border law was adopted amid the continued [standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries](#) in eastern Ladakh.

Key Points

▪ About the Law:

- **Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity:** It stipulates that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China are sacred and inviolable.
 - The state shall take measures to safeguard territorial integrity and land boundaries and guard against and combat any act that undermines territorial sovereignty and land boundaries.
- **Responsibilities:** It designates the various responsibilities of the military, the State Council or Cabinet, and provincial governments in managing the security and economic issues in border areas.
 - The **People's Liberation Army (PLA)** "shall carry out border duties" including **"organising drills" and "resolutely prevent, stop and combat invasion, encroachment, provocation and other acts"**.
 - The **state shall take measures to strengthen border defence, support economic and social development** as well as opening-up in border areas, improve public services and infrastructure in such areas, encourage and support people's life and work there.
 - The state shall, following the principle of equality, mutual trust and friendly consultation, **handle land border-related affairs with neighbouring countries through negotiations** to properly resolve disputes and longstanding border issues.

▪ Concerns:

- It would **formalise some of China's recent actions in disputed territories** with both India and Bhutan. The passing of the law coincides with stepped up Chinese activity along the land borders, which have mirrored actions in **disputed waters in the [East](#) and [South China Sea](#).**
- It includes the PLA's massing of troops in forward areas along the India border and multiple transgressions across the [Line of Actual Control \(LAC\)](#).
- China in recent years has been strengthening border infrastructure, including the establishment of air, rail and road networks. It also launched a **bullet train in Tibet** which extends **up to [Nyingchi](#)**, the border town **close to Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - The construction of new **"[frontier villages](#)" along the border with Bhutan.**

▪ China's Border Disputes:

- China has a 22,100-kilometer **land border with 14 countries.**
 - It has **resolved the boundary disputes with 12 neighbours.**
- **India and Bhutan** are the two countries with which China is **yet to finalise the border agreements.**
 - **China and Bhutan signed an MOU** firming up a three-step roadmap for expediting the boundary negotiations.
 - **India-China** border disputes cover **3,488-km along the Line of Actual Control**, **China-Bhutan** dispute covers about **400 km.**

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