



CCC

Background Guide

Agenda: India China Standoff
Freeze Date 15th June 2020

PWS MUN

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Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates!

On behalf of the whole team I would like to welcome you to the Model United Nations (MUN), 2020 simulation and more explicitly, to the Continuous Crisis Committee (CCC).

'CRISIS' as the name suggests, capitulates a discussion and sows the seed for faster decisions. The impending decisions can often be very risky, with high stakes and unbending minds. Being a part of such a committee, not only pushes you to use your imagination but also undertake leadership roles during the committee's debates, disputes and negotiations.

When we talk about the India-China crisis, the critical points between two nations; it's not just one subject matter to be concerned about. It is very important to note that, a gripping topic like this can persist for a long time. To avoid that, we have a **Freeze date viz. 15th June, 2020.**

There is no doubt that the delegates will have the best opportunity to show their diplomatic skills through dialogue, settlement and debating. To have a taste of this experience, the delegates should have a thorough knowledge and have researched in depth, their topic for debate.

We are looking forward to this committee and promise you an unforgettable experience both within and outside the committee rooms.

All the best!

Executive Board,
CCC,
Pathways MUN 2020.

Introduction

What is Crisis? Oxford dictionary states 'Crisis is a time of great danger, difficulty or doubt when problems must be solved or important decisions must be made'. A Crisis Committee revolves around the same concept. It is different from the regular MUN and it has to be done in a shorter duration i.e. a fast - paced MUN.

The Continuous Crisis Committee represents a single person or part of a government, such as the U.S Secretary of State or the Vietnam Minister of Finance.

Delegates may take individual action to address the main crisis, using powers from their portfolio, or they may address matters that are not under the committee's consideration as they see fit. An international crisis can flare up at any given time. Delegates can take a quick action and change the world around them or convince other delegates who are indecisive, in real and profound ways.

The environment in a Crisis Committee can change very quickly. The countries are under pressure of what's right and wrong for their citizens, getting hold of the problems without making them worse, the impact of their decisions to other platforms, solutions to them, the losses they might incur and so on. So, in other words the stress spreads like a wild fire. This springs up the element of excitement in the conference.

In the new era, nations have positioned 'Peace' as an important aspect to respect their countries sovereignty. In doing so, the two nuclear-armed Asian neighbours who share a 3,500-kilometre (2,100-mile) unmarked border through the Himalayas; who had an uneasy peace, which has been held since the two countries signed a truce following a war in 1962. China and India are the two Nations. The world's two most-populated countries, with a combined population of nearly three billion.

Historical Background

"We are defined not by our borders but by our bonds"

- Barack Obama

A history, packed within political systems, has directly impinged on the possibility of peace between India and China.

The Sino-Indian War, also known as the Indo-China War and Sino-Indian Border Conflict, was a warfare between China and India that cropped up in 1962. The Chinese disputed Himalayan border was the reason, the war took place. The main cause of the war, was a dispute over the sovereignty of the widely separated Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh border regions.

Aksai Chin was claimed by India to belong to Ladakh while China claimed it to be a part of Xinjiang. This region contains an important road link that connects the Chinese regions of Tibet and Xinjiang. China's construction of this road was one of the triggers of the conflict. There had been a series of violent border skirmishes between the two countries. The war fought between India and China in 1962 was a brief but catastrophic war and as a result, distrust has occasionally led to flare-ups ever since.

The Sequence of Events leading up to the War

When the Chinese People's Republic came into being on 1st Oct, 1949, India was one of the first and very few countries to recognise it. At that time, there were no conflicts or disputes between these two countries. The Chinese mind were adamant on the idea that only one of the two countries (China or India) could be an Asian power. It was their objective to see that India remained a part of South Asia.

During 1962, Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister of India as well as the External Affairs Minister.

The first dispute occurred when China invaded Tibet in 1950. Moving forward, the Indians had to struggle to protect its borders later. Attempts to sign a treaty or agreements were made but that proved to be of no use. On the contrary, in 1957 China illegally occupied the Aksai Chin and completed construction of their Western Highway through it.

Later around 1959-60, India went on with a Forward Policy which resulted into a failure. This action irked the Chinese minds. That's when they stroked their first blow on 20th October 1962 and a War was initiated.

Situations of India and China

Territorial Disputes

A. World's longest disputed border

India and China share an extensive border in the world but there was not even a single bullet that was fired in nearly 50 years until the incident that took place on 15th June. Both the countries assert vast swaths of each other's territory along the Himalayan rim, with the borderline problems rooted in the demarcation of boundaries. The border can be grouped into three different sectors: The Eastern, Central and Western.

Beijing has never conceded the 1914 border drawn by British officer Henry McMahon. China currently claims 90,000 sq. kms (34,750 square miles) of territory - nearly all of which makes up India's Arunachal Pradesh state. Beijing manifests it as Southern Tibet in its map.

On the other hand, India claims 38,000 square kilometres (15,000 sq. miles) of land currently under Chinese authority, which constitutes Aksai Chin plateau near the Ladakh region.

B. Highest border region on earth

The India - China border is at an altitude of 6,500 metres (21,000 feet) above sea level, this border region is known for its complex winding roads, harsh Himalayan topography and sub-zero temperatures. Special breathing equipment is required to access some of the border posts.

C. Past clashes

India and China have mostly abstained the border clashes since 1962 truce. Border protocols agreed after several rounds of talks since the late 1980s have largely put a stop to the vehemence except for episodic border standoffs.

Sino-Indian War 1962

In 1962, the two sides fought a four-week war over a borderline dispute that left thousands deceased on the Indian side. Beijing retained Aksai Chin, a strategic corridor connecting Tibet to western China. The war concluded with a truce and the formation of the de facto boundary, known as the LAC.

Doklam Standoff 2017

India and China had a months-long high-altitude standoff in Bhutan's Doklam area after the Indian army sent troops to cease China from constructing a road in the area. The Doklam plateau is strategically significant as it gives China an entrance to the so-called "chicken's neck" - a thin strip of land linking India's north-eastern states with the rest of the country. It is claimed by both China and Bhutan, an ally of India. The issue was resolved after discussions.

Ladakh Confrontation 2020

On 15 June, tensions led to hand-to-hand combat that assassinated 20 and wounded 76 Indian soldiers. Weeks of low-level tensions and restlessness was visible between the nations and its inhabitants. Several Indian and Chinese soldiers were injured in high-altitude fistfights on the frontier in Sikkim state in early May. Indian officials said, within a few days, Chinese troops encroached beyond the demarcation line further west in Ladakh's expanse and India then made progress with extra troops to opposite positions.

D. Eastern sector - Arunachal Pradesh

Population: 1.4 million. Highest altitude: 7,000 m.

Arunachal Pradesh, which shares a 1,129-kilometre (700-mile) border with China, forms a part of the Eastern sector. The state, which is claimed by Beijing, was at the centre of a full-scale border war in 1962 when India lost some territory to China.

E. Central sector - Doklam Plateau

Highest altitude: 4,600 m

The Central sector is the shortest with a distance of 89kilometers (55 miles). In early May, fights erupted at Nathu La Pass in the Indian state of Sikkim between Indian and Chinese soldiers.

The sector has remained largely peaceful but it was the site of a weeks-long confrontation in 2017 at the Doklam Plateau, which is at the trijunction of India, China and Bhutan.

F. Western sector - Ladakh

Population: 280,000. Highest altitude: 5,300 m

The Himalayan region of Ladakh, was carved out of Indian-administered Kashmir last August.

Rival soldiers have clashed in Pangong Tso Lake, Galwan Valley, Depsang plains, and Demchok in Ladakh after PLA (People's Liberation Army) soldiers-built bunkers and brought armoured trucks and artillery. Hundreds of soldiers remain poised eyeball-to-eyeball in Ladakh region.

In the last decade or so, India has started to bolster its border infrastructure, including the building of roads and airports near the LAC. Experts say India's defence upgrade near the border in Ladakh and last year's change of status of Kashmir triggered the latest Chinese pushback.

G. Territorial claims over Kashmir

Indian-administered Kashmir is one of the most militarised zones in the world with more than half a million Indian forces deployed to get rid of a decades-old armed rebellion. Kashmir is claimed by both India and Pakistan in its entirety but they control only parts of it. A small portion of Kashmir, called Aksai Chin, is in the control of China.

GEOPOLITICS OF WATER

Along with the land disputes, China and India have also indulged in conflicts on the shared transboundary rivers. The linkage of the Brahmaputra river to the unsolved territorial dispute and the past behaviour of China and India on other transboundary rivers in the region, for example the Mekong and the Ganges river have proved to be very disturbing.

Both the Brahmaputra and the glaciers that feed Ganga originate or start in China. As an upstream riparian region, China maintains an advantageous spot and can build infrastructure to intentionally prevent water from flowing downstream.

Owing to previous tendencies where the Chinese have been resistant to provide details of its hydro-power projects, there is a trust deficit between the two neighbours.

China's dam-building and water division schemes along the Brahmaputra (called Yarlung Zangbo in China) is a source of tension between the two neighbours, despite the two having signed several MoU's (Memorandum of Understanding) on strengthening communication and strategic trust. As lower riparian countries, India and Bangladesh rely on the Brahmaputra's water for agriculture.

China has now intentions to build four more dams on the Brahmaputra in Tibet. Both India and Bangladesh worry that these dams will give Beijing the ability to reroute or store water in times of political crisis. India, for its part, has built dams on the Teesta River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra.

TRADE DISPUTES BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA

China and India, both are world's most populous countries and fastest growing major economies. The far-reaching growth in China and India's global diplomatic and economic influence has also amplified the significance of their bilateral relationship. In the recent years, China had emerged as the largest trading partner of India.

Many Indian companies have been a part of setting up the Chinese operations to service both their Indian and multinational corporation (MNC) clientele in China. The leading Indian banks such as State Bank of India (Shanghai), Bank of India (Shenzhen), Canara bank (Shanghai) and Bank of Baroda (Guangzhou) have branches in China.

With the growth in bilateral trade between these two nations, most of Indian companies have a presence in Shanghai which is China's financial centre. Likewise, Chinese companies have also entrenched their operations in India.

During the first decade of 21st century, the presence of Chinese products in Indian market had grown profoundly and exponentially. In 2016, India was the 7th largest export destination for Chinese products, and the 27th largest exporter to China.

However, bilateral trade has reduced drastically over the past few months due to both the Covid 19 pandemic and the rising cold vibes between the nations and its borders.

To give an example, the Chinese smartphone makers have previously built factories and created jobs opportunities in India. Interestingly, such smartphone companies have embraced Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India" programme. Xiaomi locally manufactures 95 per cent of the phones it sells in India. And hence, any announcements forcing Chinese businesses to close down in India will add to the burgeoning and ever-increasing unemployment rates in India.

EFFECT OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Despite decades of diplomatic relations and healthy trade between the two nations, the relationship among them remains complex. The world along with China itself, was facing the dangerous pandemic.

It may or may not have originated from China, but it certainly looks like China being the super power tried to take advantage of the situation. It tried intruding in various countries, like Tibet, Nepal and India.

India being a developing country, was not only suffering from an economic crisis but now had to face a war like situation where the country's land was in danger. Whereas, the pandemic with no doubt has created fatal conditions to a very large extent.

South China Sea

The Covid-19 virus, intruding in the lands of other nations, creating economic disturbances, quiver world peace and the list goes on. China is still not satisfied with their checklist of issues it has created in the past few months. Now, the South China Sea has revived as an arena for serious tensions.

It is a home to vital shipping lanes, has been a flashpoint for years, with several countries claiming ownership of its small islands and reefs and with it, access to resources.

In early April, a Chinese Coast Guard vessel rammed and sank a Vietnamese fishing vessel close to the Paracel Islands, which China and Vietnam claim as theirs.

Then, a Malaysian oil exploration project also found its operations disrupted off the coast of Borneo by a Chinese marine survey vessel, the Haiyang Dizhi 8, backed by China's Navy and Coast Guard.

Consequently, a US Navy amphibious assault ship, joined by an Australian frigate, was deployed to waters nearby.

Such instances took place which has given rise to conflicts and disagreements within different nations. While India isn't party to the South China Sea dispute, few recent developments might trigger India in the long run.

Conclusion

"When written in Chinese, the word 'crisis' is composed of two characters. One represents danger and the other represents opportunity"

John F. Kennedy

It is difficult to extract all that is known about a particular crisis into one, concise entry. Crisis come with a threat, be it a small-scale crisis or a large-scale crisis. Effective crisis management can minimize the damage and, in some cases, allow an organization to emerge stronger than it was before the crisis existed. Here, the management of a particular emergency will depend upon the research you have done on your part. Just like a life lesson, disputes and conflicts teach you to swallow your pride, divert your mind to a different perspective and to do your own analysis on what's best for all.

By knowing the facts of the India China Standoff, you will have an individual ideology. Prepare a crisis management proposition, place them cautiously considering all the aspects and be true to your views. As a result of that, you shall safeguard your country and bring peace for the people.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. Has the de-escalation process regarding India China border dispute come along or has it worsened the situation?
2. According to your research and country, will there be a need for a war to solve the dispute?
3. How has the US intervention in the India China Standoff aggravated or aided the situation?
4. What are the factors affecting transboundary water understanding and management between China and India, in context of the Yarlung Tsangpo and the Brahmaputra?
5. How does the unresolved territorial/boundary dispute between China and India, especially in the eastern sector affect the transboundary water cooperation and management on Yarlung Tsangpo-Brahmaputra case?
6. If the bilateral trades have in fact increased during the months of the conflict, will there be any consequences as the bilateral trade between the two nations?
7. How is the conflict a threat to Five-Nation BRICS?
8. What could the implications be from the South China Sea disputes if, China tries to interfere in the Indian territorial region through the waters?

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