



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## Lessons from Doklam

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- The India - China standoff in Doklam is now resolved with diplomatic efforts.
- However, the turn of events calls for India to pay attention to some larger questions on our military strength and support of other powers.

\n

\n\n

### What should India learn from the Doklam issue?

\n\n

\n

- **Army strength** - India has to look into the relative strength of its military power as against that of China's.
- With due acknowledgement to the professional Indian armed forces, the reality is that they do not outweigh the Chinese in a conflict scenario.
- India's military strength was sufficient only to make a defensive response to the whole issue.
- **Infrastructure** - The high density of infrastructure on the Chinese side has forced India to respond with the Line of Control (LoC) mindset in a disputed territory where India has strong claims.
- Here again, India limited itself to a defensive position, as it feared of losing some territory.
- It thus did not choose to draw the Chinese in and then inflict punitive losses.
- The infrastructure on the Indian side, both strategic railway lines and

important roads, has shown no significant progress over the years.

\n

- **Military preparedness** - India's military preparedness in this context is weaker in relation to its opponent.

\n

- The delay in military modernisation schemes have made army's ammunition reserves unsustainable even for a 10-day-long war.

\n

- Not properly equipped and stocked Indian armed forces seem to be unprepared and vulnerable, to a possibly two-front collusive threat from China and Pakistan.

\n

- **Bhutan** - Bhutan has been a strong Indian ally and has stood by New Delhi during the standoff.

\n

- However, views within Bhutan are strongly demanding a "balanced foreign policy" i.e. opening of ties with China.

\n

- Also, there are high chances of resumption of the now cancelled Bhutan-China border talks.

\n

- The talks involve a swap for Doklam with disputed areas in the north, an offer which has always interested Bhutan.

\n

- All these developments are something which India cannot afford to ignore.

\n

- **International support** - Though being indirect, India got considerable support from the many countries in the Doklam issue.

\n

- The world nations' own relations with Beijing made it very difficult for them to state their support openly.

\n

- At this juncture, it is for India to seriously think on relying on international support against China if India and China were to clash again.

\n

\n\n

## What is the way forward?

\n\n

\n

- In all its statements following the disengagement in Doklam, the Chinese have emphasised their sovereignty over the area.

\n

- Thus, the Doklam crisis may be over, but another crisis between India and China cannot be ruled out completely.  
\n
- This requires India to gain experience from the Doklam standoff and be prepared to handle any such similar situation in future.  
\n
- A reassessment on military systems and processes, and diplomatic negotiations are essential at this point.  
\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: Indian Express**

\n



**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative