


## China-Bhutan border dispute

**Dividing line**  
A brief overview of the boundary dispute between China and Bhutan

- Bhutan and China have no formal diplomatic relations but have held 24 rounds of boundary talks between 1984 and 2016
- Talks concentrated on north and west Bhutan regions
- Eastern Bhutan not part of the talks

so far, say officials

- Sakteng sanctuary is situated close to the border with Arunachal Pradesh
- In June 2020, China attempted to stop UNDP-GEF funding for Sakteng by claiming it was disputed, but was overruled

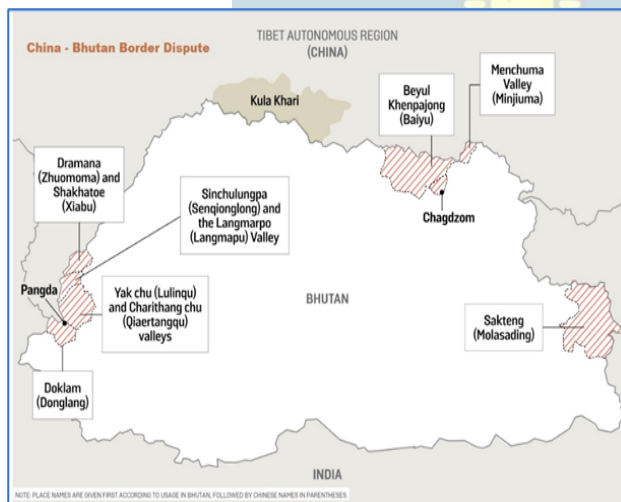


CHINA  
BHUTAN  
Sikkim  
Arunachal Pradesh  
Assam  
Meghalaya  
INDIA  
BANGLADESH

Sakteng wildlife sanctuary

Bhutan and India formally demarcated their 699 km boundary in 2006

Map not to scale



China and Bhutan held their 25th round of boundary talks in Beijing and signed a Cooperation Agreement on the “Responsibilities and Functions of the Joint Technical Team (JTT) on the Delimitation and

Demarcation of the Bhutan China Boundary.”

Since 1984, Bhutan and China had held 24 rounds of talks to resolve the disputes until 2016, but the 25th round appeared to have been held up after the Doklam Standoff between Indian and Chinese armies in 2017, and then the COVID19 pandemic in 2019-2021.

The 3 Step Roadmap involves first, agreeing to the border “on the table”; then visiting the sites on the ground; — and then formally demarcating the boundary

New Delhi is watching the demarcation discussions over Doklam, as amongst the proposals China has placed on the table is an agreement to “swap” areas in Doklam under Bhutanese control with areas in Jakarlung and Pasamlung which China claims.

- The Doklam trijunction cuts very close to India's Siliguri corridor a narrow area that connects the North Eastern States to the rest of India and India would not like to see China gain access to any area closer to it.
  - Since the Doklam standoff in 2017, China has doubled down on its control of the Doklam plateau, and according to a recent Pentagon report, has continued to build "underground storage facilities, new roads, and new villages in disputed areas in neighboring Bhutan," erasing many of the strategic gains that New Delhi had hoped for after China agreed to step back from the standoff point in 2017.
  - Finally, India's worry is over China's demand for full diplomatic relations with Bhutan, and opening an Embassy in Thimphu.
- Given India's challenges with Chinese projects and funding in other neighboring countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, any Chinese presence in a small country like Bhutan would be problematic.

The Hindu

Project tiger, NTCA, Anamalai tiger reserve

Many conservation areas were created to make sure that no human could enter the area and do any harm to the tiger or its habitat.

Project Tiger was first initiated in the year April 1, 1973, and is still going on. This project was started to save tigers.

The much-needed project was launched in Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand under the leadership of Indira Gandhi.

The objectives of the Project Tiger was clear- saving Royal Bengal Tigers from getting extinct.

The major cause of their depletion is humans, and so all the conservation areas are made human free. They made sure that the place that tigers lived in was also safe and secure.

The main objectives behind Project Tiger are to reduce the factors which cause the diminishing of tigers and also to manage them and ensure a viable tiger population in the case of economic, scientific, ecological, and cultural values.

The body administrating is National Tiger Conservation Authority and there are 8 Conservation units:

Sundarbans Conservation Unit

Northeast Conservation Unit

Western Ghats Conservation Unit

4. Shivalik-Terai Conservation Unit

5. Eastern Ghats Conservation Unit

6. Sariska Conservation Unit

7. Central India Conservation Unit

Kaziranga Conservation Unit

8. About NTCA

9. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has been constituted under section 38 L (1) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

10. Further, as per the section 38 L, sub section 2 of the said Act, the authority consists of the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (as Chairperson), the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (as Vice-Chairperson), three members of Parliament, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and other members.

The authority derives its power from section 38 O (1) of WLP, 1972 and functions under the guidance of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and members.

which are considered as one of eight "hottest hot spots"

The Hindu

### Ethics vs privilege committee

#### About Anamalai Tiger reserve

- Anamalai Tiger Reserve is carved out of the Tamil Nadu portion of the Anamalais.
- The Tamil Nadu part of the reserve is called as Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR).
- It lies South of the Palakkad gap in the Southern Western Ghats.
- The Anamalai Tiger Reserve falls within the Western Ghats mountain chain of South West India, a region designated as one of 25 Global Biodiversity Hotspots. The biogeographical classification of the country includes Western Ghats

- A Presiding Officers' Conference held in Delhi in 1996 first mooted the idea of ethics panels for the two Houses.
- Then Vice President (and Rajya Sabha Chairman) K R Narayanan constituted the Ethics Committee of the Upper House on March 4, 1997, and it was inaugurated that May to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of members and examine cases of misconduct referred to it.
- The Rules applicable to the Committee of Privileges also apply to the ethics panel.
- In the case of Lok Sabha, a study group of the House Committee of Privileges, after visiting Australia, the UK, and the US in 1997 to look into

practices pertaining to the conduct and ethics of legislators, recommended the constitution of an Ethics Committee, but it could not be taken up by Lok Sabha

- The Committee of Privileges finally recommended the constitution of an Ethics Committee during the 13th Lok Sabha. The late Speaker, G. M. C. Balayogi, constituted an ad hoc Ethics Committee in 2000, which became a permanent part of the House only in 2015.

#### Procedure for complaints

- Any person can complain against a Member through another Lok Sabha MP, along with evidence of the alleged misconduct, and an affidavit stating that the complaint is not “false, frivolous, or vexatious”.
- If the Member himself complains, the affidavit is not needed.

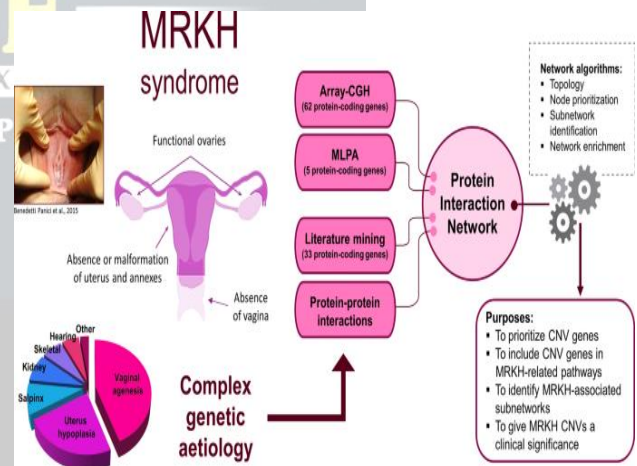
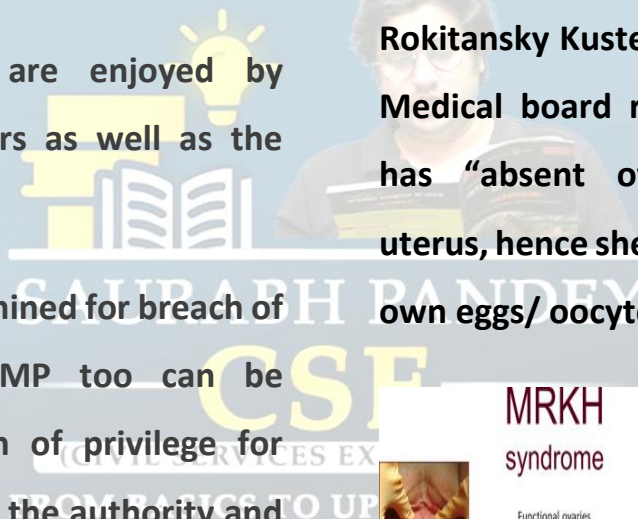
- The Speaker can refer to the Committee any complaint against an MP.
- The Committee does not entertain complaints based only on media reports or on matters that are sub judice.
- The Committee makes a prima facie inquiry before deciding to examine a complaint.
- It makes its recommendations after evaluating the complaint.

- The Committee presents its report to the Speaker, who asks the House if the report should be taken up for consideration. There is also a provision for a half-hour discussion on the report.

#### Privileges Committee

- The work of the Ethics Committee and the Privileges Committee often overlap.

- An allegation of corruption against an MP can be sent to either body, but usually more serious accusations go to the Privileges Committee.
- The mandate of the Privileges Committee is to safeguard the “freedom, authority, and dignity of Parliament”.
- These privileges are enjoyed by individual Members as well as the House as a whole.
- An MP can be examined for breach of privilege; a non-MP too can be accused of breach of privilege for actions that attack the authority and dignity of the House.
- The Ethics Committee can take up only cases of misconduct that involve MPs.
- SC on Surrogacy MRKH (Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome)
- The Supreme Court has protected the right of parenthood of a woman, suffering from a rare medical condition, by staying the operation of a law which threatened to wreck her hopes to become a mother through surrogacy.
- The woman has the Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome. Medical board records showed she has “absent ovaries and absent uterus, hence she cannot produce her own eggs/ oocytes”
- A government notification on March 14 this year amended the law, banning the use of donor gametes.

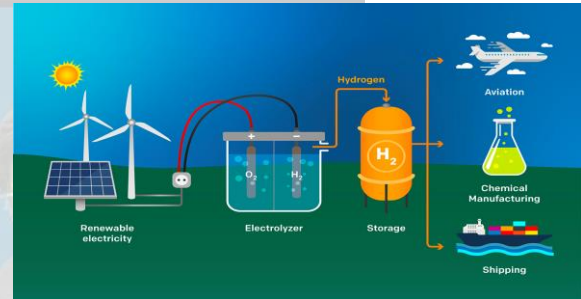


- It said “intending couples” must use their own gametes for surrogacy.
- d) of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022, by ruling out the use of donor eggs, had made it impossible for his client and her husband to continue with the process of surrogacy to achieve parenthood.
- He argued that the 2023 amendment contradicted Sections 2(r) and 4 of the Surrogacy Act, 2021, which recognised the situation when a medical condition would require a couple to opt for gestational surrogacy in order to become parents.
- The government’s contention that the surrogate child should be “genetically related” to the couple, the court said the child would be related to the husband.
- “In this regard, it may be noted that the expression ‘genetically’ related to

the intending couple has to be read as being related to the husband when Rule 14(a) applies,”

- The Hindu

### Green hydrogen and carbon emission



- India’s plans to produce so called ‘green hydrogen’ where the gas is produced without resulting in fossil fuel emissions may end up worsening pollution if proper checks and balances are not in place, according to a study by environmental and energy think tank, Climate Risk Horizons (CRH).
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission, piloted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE),

expects to manufacture five million tonnes by 2030.

- This would require the installation of renewable energy capacity worth 125 GW and the use of 250,000 giga watt hour units of power, equivalent to about 13% of India's present electricity generation.
- As of August 2023, India's total renewable energy (RE) capacity stood at 131 GW.
- The 2030 green hydrogen plan thus envisages adding an equivalent RE capacity by 2030.
- This is over and above the 500 GW of RE capacity that India has committed to install by 2030 as part of the Paris Agreement.
- To put that in perspective, India installed only 15 GW of new solar and wind capacity in 2023, against the 45

GW per year needed to reach the 2030 target.

- The MNRE has defined green hydrogen as hydrogen produced in a way that emits no more than two kg of carbon dioxide per kg of such hydrogen.
- Currently, producing one kg of 'grey hydrogen', as it is known, ends up emitting nine kg of carbon dioxide
- The main concern is that if electrolyzers were run 24x7, they would be expected to operate even at night when no solar power is available.
- **"Where will the electricity come from?"**
- If it comes from India's coal powered grid in general, it will in fact increase carbon emissions, since about 70% of the electricity on the grid is coal



generated more in no daylight hours when solar generation is nil,”

The Hindu

### SC on abortion

- The Supreme Court this month rejected a woman’s plea for abortion.
- The woman 26 weeks pregnant, married, with two children, and dealing with postpartum psychosis requested termination because she was “physically, emotionally, mentally, financially and medically unable to carry, deliver or raise a child.”
- Denying her request, the three judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India said the Court’s recognition of a woman’s autonomy cannot eclipse the “rights of the unborn child”.
- For the law, a pregnant woman is a unique subject. The fetus is

intimately associated with the body of the woman, in a way that is different from all other situations that the law regulates.

- Any form of recognition of the foetus will, therefore, most likely grievously invade women’s legally recognised rights.
- When we contemplate the legal (as opposed to ethical, moral or religious) status of the foetus, a strong case can be made that the impact on women has to be a consideration
- Empirical evidence suggests that restrictive abortion laws do not protect fetuses; they push women toward unsafe abortions.
- If foetal protection is the aim, better alternatives exist: comprehensive sex education, access to contraception, reducing violence against women,

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and providing childcare support, which reduce rate of abortions.

- The pregnant woman's rights were seen as extending only as far as they did not harm a viable foetus
- Abortion cases are seen as involving the right to privacy. However, abortions are also necessary to guarantee women equality.
- Being denied abortions has a socio-economic impact on women. It also entrenches stereotypical assumptions about women's role as mothers, leading to abortion stigma and provider bias.

The Hindu