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# BORDER MANAGEMENT: FROM DISPUTE TO RESOLUTION: AKSAI CHIN

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ORGANISED BY CENJOWS

16 APR 2026

**AKSAI CHIN**  
(UNDER CHINESE  
OCCUPATION)



## **BORDER MANAGEMENT: FROM DISPUTE TO RESOLUTION: AKSAI CHIN**

**BY BRIG K RANJEEV SINGH, YSM**

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The lecture provides a comprehensive analysis of the India–China border dispute, emphasizing its historical roots, geographical complexities, and evolving strategic implications. Delivered by a retired Indian Army officer with extensive operational experience along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the discussion highlights that the dispute is not merely territorial but deeply shaped by history, terrain, political narratives, and military realities.

Historically, the boundary issue originates from colonial-era cartography, where borders were often drawn without accurate geographical understanding. Events such as China’s integration of Tibet, the construction of strategic infrastructure in the 1950s, and the 1962 war significantly altered the regional balance. These developments created long-standing ambiguities that persist today, complicating diplomatic and military engagement between the two nations.

Geographically, the border spans some of the most inhospitable terrains in the world, particularly in regions like Eastern Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. High altitudes, extreme weather conditions, and sparse population make administration and military deployment challenging. The LAC often follows watershed lines, which could theoretically serve as a basis for resolution, but conflicting interpretations by both sides continue to generate friction.

A key theme of the lecture is China’s strategic approach to border management. The speaker identifies patterns in China’s negotiations with other countries, noting that while China has resolved disputes with many neighbors—often through territorial compromises—it has not done so with India. Tactics such as “salami slicing,” where incremental territorial gains are made without triggering full-scale conflict, highlight China’s long-term strategic planning. At the same time, China is described as a reliable negotiation partner within established frameworks, given the absence of major armed conflict since 1962.

The discussion also explores the interplay between military preparedness and political decision-making. The speaker emphasizes that effective border management requires strong political will supported by military capability. He advocates for structured, military-informed negotiations with clearly defined red lines and timelines. Such an approach would ensure that diplomatic engagements are grounded in realistic assessments of terrain, logistics, and strategic priorities.

Several potential resolution scenarios are presented, including maintaining the status quo, formalizing the LAC as an international boundary, or negotiating territorial adjustments based on strategic and economic considerations. However, each option carries significant political and operational challenges. The speaker underscores that any sustainable solution must balance national interests with practical realities on the ground.

The lecture also addresses broader strategic concerns, including China's expanding military capabilities and its collusive relationship with Pakistan. These factors increase pressure on India's security environment, necessitating enhanced surveillance, infrastructure development, and operational readiness along the border. At the same time, economic interdependence between India and China is acknowledged but considered insufficient to resolve core territorial disputes.

Finally, the importance of public perception and national narratives is highlighted. While political tensions remain high, public attitudes in India toward China are complex and not uniformly hostile. Managing these narratives is crucial, particularly when considering compromise-based solutions.

In conclusion, the lecture argues for a balanced, long-term strategy combining military strength, diplomatic engagement, and political clarity. Resolving the border dispute is essential not only for bilateral stability but also for enhancing India's broader strategic position in the region.