

# After 19 Rounds of Border Talks, Why is There No Progress?

[thequint.com/opinion/india-china-after-19-rounds-of-border-talks-why-is-there-no-progress](https://thequint.com/opinion/india-china-after-19-rounds-of-border-talks-why-is-there-no-progress)

August 22, 2023



On 14 August 2023, India and China concluded the 19th Round of Commander Level Talks at Chushul with the goal of resolving the three yearlong military standoff.

The 18th round of talks was held in April 2023, and the one before that was held in December 2022. These talks were headed by Lt Gen Rashim Bali from the Indian side and the commander from the South Xinjiang military district from the Chinese side.

This also forces one to speculate that the cordial tone of the talks is primarily leg work for the upcoming meetings between the Indian and Chinese leaders.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping are scheduled to meet each other at the upcoming BRICS summit in South Africa (22 – 24 August 2023) and Xi Jinping is also expected to attend the G20 summit in New Delhi (9-10 September 2023). The recent talks were scheduled just weeks before the upcoming G20 Summit which is under India's presidency.

Also Read

**[India Withdraws from Event in China Over Stapled Visas for Arunachal Athletes](#)**



## An Extremely Adamant China

---

India and China have been engaged in a military standoff since the May 2020 Galwan clashes. These clashes marked the end of the Confidence Building Mechanisms (CBMs) established between the two sides after the violent clashes where both sides lost soldiers. These clashes also completely changed the nature of the bilateral relations and were a clear sign of growing Chinese aggression which is especially directed towards India. It also gives an indication that Beijing feels that it is strong enough to unilaterally alter the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and gain an advantage on the border issue.

In the last nine months, India and China have held three Commander Level Talks. As per the Ministry of External Affairs statement published on their website after the conclusion of the recent talks, “They agreed to resolve the remaining issues in an expeditious manner and maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations through military and diplomatic channels. In the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas.”

This clearly indicates that no concrete development happened even during the recent talks which could change the existing status-quo. But in the last three years, conflict points like north and south banks of Pangong Tso and Galwan Valley and the Gogra-Hot Springs area have had some de-escalation as buffer zones have been created.

However, the situation on the ground has the capacity to get violent given that both sides have advanced weaponry and 60,000 boots on the ground across the Ladakh border. As the recent talks failed to achieve any concrete achievement the two sides conducted a Major General Level talks on 18 August 2023, at Chushul and Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO).

But this military standoff between India and China is giving no sign of easing anytime soon. Beijing is proving especially difficult to negotiate with. China has been very adamant about not ready to give in to any Indian demands and as per reports Chinese army has been especially aggressive by blocking Indian patrolling in the concerned region.

Also Read

### **BRICS Summit: Amid Possible Expansionist Ambition, India-China Deadlock Sustains**

---



## The Economy, the US, and Taiwan

---

This aggressive posturing adopted by Beijing seems to have very strong roots in its domestic developments and challenges. Since the pandemic outbreak, the Chinese economy has faced one of its biggest hurdles. The slowdown has hit China very badly and the situation is becoming increasingly worse with the economy showing no signs of recovery. This is despite the Chinese government's efforts to help put in all its energy to make the economy regain its pace of growth.

In addition to this the growing India-United States relations have also made Beijing uncomfortable. New Delhi and Washington have been warming to each other and this has been construed as being anti-China. Beijing has been especially vocal about this development regularly criticising New Delhi. This is also happening at a time when China-United States relations are at an all-time low. Most of the attempts to talk have consistently failed and China has become increasingly aggressive and even retaliating by banning the export of critical material to the United States.

The development across the Taiwan Straits have also mutated in a direction not palatable to China. Taiwanese leadership has consistently become independent in their diplomatic dealings and have undercut Chinese warnings. China has engaged in military drills as a warning however, the consistent support from the United States to Taiwan has upset China.

Given these developments, the current Chinese government feels targeted from all directions. The United States and Taiwan are very sensitive topics for the Chinese government and heavily swayed by domestic nationalism. Given that most of the issues which are challenging to the Chinese government appear to be out of their control. The economy, the United States and Taiwan, all impact the domestic legitimacy of the Chinese government.

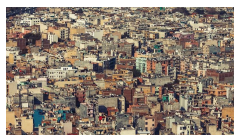
Thus, it appears that China is all keen to appear tougher in its foreign policy negotiations, especially with respect to India. It is also an effort to continuously undermine the Indian aspirations to be a strong and independent voice of the South Asian countries. It is also a very prominent technique of Beijing to keep India occupied with domestic issues and in the process undermine its regional and global aspirations.

*(Dr Gunjan Singh is an Assistant Professor at Jindal Law School, OP Jindal Global University. Her research interests are in the fields of Chinese Foreign Policy, China-South Asia Relations, Domestic Politics in China, Chinese Media, Mainland-Taiwan Relations and Space Security. This is an opinion piece and the views expressed are the author's own. **The Quint** neither endorses nor is responsible for them.)*

Also Read

**[Why Has India's Population Zoomed Past China's? Blame Slow GDP Growth](#)**

---



*(At The Quint, we are answerable only to our audience. Play an active role in shaping our journalism by becoming a member. Because the truth is worth it.)*

**Read Latest News and Breaking News at The Quint, browse for more from opinion**

---

**Topics: India China**

---



Speaking truth to power requires allies like you.

Become a Member

675

750 10% off

1500

1800 16% off

4000

5000 20% off

PREMIUM

4 months

12 months

12 months

I-Day discounts across all membership plans! Ltd time only.

[Check Member Benefits](#)

Read More

**[Slow Progress for PLIs for Electronics & IT Hardware: Will They Deliver Targets?](#)**

---



## **SC's Gender Stereotypes Handbook May Rip Off Labels, but Will It Effect Change?**

---



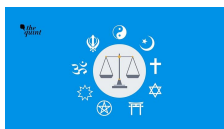
## **Modi's 'Vishwakarma Mission' vs Gehlot's OBC Quota: Battle for the OBC Vote**

---



## **"The Politics of Methodology" and Perils of Implementing UCC in India**

---



Stay Updated

Subscribe To Our Daily Newsletter And Get News Delivered Straight To Your Inbox.



Join over 120,000 subscribers!

More News



## **Parliament Productivity Analysis: Monsoon Session Signals Accountability Crisis**

---



## **To Love or Knot: Dear Sir, Couples Need Parents' Blessings, Not Legal Eyeballs**

---



## As SC Questions 'Special Treatment' for J&K, a Look at Article 370's Historicity

---



## Data Protection Bill & the Politics of Labels: There's More Than Meets the Eye

---

### SUPPORT OUR SPECIAL PROJECTS



#### JU Student Death & The Horrors of Campus Ragging

Kolkata's Jadavpur University has been rocked by turmoil in the wake of a 17-year-old undergraduate student's death less than a week after he enrolled at the prestigious institute. He was allegedly ragged for over two hours and forced to strip naked before he purportedly fell from the balcony of the hostel building. As The Quint brings you voices of his distraught parents, the protesting students, the alleged cover-up by various stakeholders, and raises bigger questions on how the social evil of ragging continues to plague India's education system – we need your support. Planning and executing stories from the ground require time and resources – but you have the power to empower us to delve deeper and shine a spotlight on our coverage.

₹

[Know More](#)

x

**Video Editor:** Purnendu Pritam

"What do we find today? Divisive politics, religion into politics, vote bank politics? Subhash Chandra Bose would have never tolerated this kind of politics. He wanted an inclusive, secular India," said Chandra Kumar Bose, West Bengal BJP leader and



grandnephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, in a conversation on 'Badi Badi Baatein'.

In the second part of this interview, the BJP leader who never shies away from voicing opinions different than the party on several issues, narrates why he joined the saffron party, how divisive politics is harming India, the contrast in the ideologies of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Netaji Bose, and how his granduncle would have been anguished seeing the situation in Manipur.

**[Click here to watch Part 1 of the interview.](#)**



Speaking of Netaji's values and Netaji's ideology, as you mentioned. Where do you think we are politically when it comes to his ideology of a nation? Do you think this is the political state of India that he would have envisioned 75 years later.

See, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is the only leader to date, who could unite all communities as Bharatiyas. In his Indian National Army, there were 60,000 soldiers. Who were these 60,000 soldiers? There was not a single Hindu, not a single Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Buddhist or Jain, they were Bharatiyas.

Netaji would have desired India to be an inclusive secular nation. Netaji was a very spiritual person. Netaji's spiritual guru was Swami Vivekananda. Netaji was a Goddess Kali devotee but when it came to freedom fighting, when it came to nation building, when it came to politics, Netaji was the only leader who never mixed religion with politics.

What do we find today? Divisive politics, religion into politics, vote bank politics? Subhash Chandra Bose would have never tolerated this kind of politics. He wanted an inclusive, secular India.



There are certain changes that the RSS are trying to make, even a few months ago Mr Bhagwat was in West Bengal and you did question the values of the RSS at that point. Do you think that there is a change in the RSS from what it was during Netaji time and what it is today?

Mr Mohan Bhagwat is a very tall leader. I have also interacted with him. He is a pragmatist. He has realised that RSS ideology also should evolve. You see, all political parties must evolve. What attitude or ideology they had in the 1940s cannot really be practical in 21st century India.

So, Mohan Bhagwat ji has very clearly stated on 23 January this year on Netaji's birth anniversary that RSS believes in Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's inclusive ideology. We welcome this move if RSS or any organisation is willing to preach and practice Netaji's inclusive and secular ideology.



What made you join the Bharatiya Janata Party?

Well, I was very impressed by the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi Ji because I interacted with him way back in 2013 when he had come to Kolkata as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. There was a meeting in Kolkata and I got an opportunity to have a talk with him. I was quite impressed with his pragmatism, shall I say.

I spoke about Netaji files that the Netaji files have been suppressed. We want to know what happened to Subas Chandra Bose after 18 August, 1945. This entire credit goes to the NDA government and Narendra Modi for taking steps in the right direction to declassify all the files and putting it in the National Archives website.



Do you think the values of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government align with what Netaji would have wanted the government of India to be?

See, I feel that Narendra Modi Ji is a very inclusive leader. However, he is heading a political party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is one of the largest parties in the world. And as you know, all political parties have diverse opinions, have all types of people involved.

So, in order to have a focus, I think we need to do some work and we need to put in an extra effort to lead the nation. In 2014, Narendra Modi Ji showed the path of development. You know, he clearly said he had come on a development plank. He had come on an anti-corruption drive. And that is the reason why I got myself associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party and my terms were very clear. I had a very clear discussion, focused discussion with the honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and also Amit Shah Ji who was heading the party as its president at that time, that my politics is entirely based on Subhas Chandra Bose's ideology which is inclusive secularism. I cannot digress.

I was given the green signal to join the BJP and practice Subhas Chandra Bose's inclusive secular ideology. I have tried it. I have not been very successful because see, it is not a single person who can actually implement that ideology. It is a joint effort. I got a lot of support from the Prime Minister, but I think the party as a whole needs to also come forward and preach Subhas Chandra Bose's inclusive ideology.



Do you think the government is lacking somewhere in putting across this message of a secular India? Because we see a lot of incidents, we see a lot of communal flares under several state governments as well. Do you think there is a lack of political will somewhere when it comes to pushing an inclusive secular agenda by the government?

Yes, I think all political parties are to be blamed because this divide and rule policy we have learned from the British and I think we still practice it in certain parts of our country. Political battles may be won because of this division and dividing communities by vote bank politics. But I feel the political party may win. But India loses, the nation loses.





You are somebody who is seen and known to speak his mind. You have taken a different stand on the party on several issues like the CAA, the hijab ban and a lot of other issues. But do you think it harms you politically somewhere within the party circles?

Yes, I think in a political party you need to tow the line. But then, if my conscience doesn't permit, I am not able to tow the line, I speak my mind. My ideology is entirely based on Subhas Chandra Bose. He had great respect for Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru but that didn't deter him to oppose their policy and their views.

So, I have respect for Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and the leadership of BJP but that does not really prevent me from voicing my opinion.



Most of this previous Parliament session was disrupted because of the issue of Manipur. Where do you think the central government or even the BJP government in Manipur has lacked or failed to control the situation?

Politics should be kept aside and both the government of Manipur, the central government and the opposition must unite and resolve this crisis. And it was the help that the Kukis and the Meiteis and the Nagas and the local tribals gave to the Indian National Army that they were able to defeat the British forces on Indian soil for the first time in April 1944.

They are freedom fighters. Their ancestors fought against the British, along with the Indian National Army. So, I think they should have been more sensitive in tackling the issue.

We should have stood both with the Kukis and Meiteis and made peace. I think we failed to do that. Again, this divisive politics came to play. I vehemently oppose this and I am sure Netaji Subash Chandra Bose would have been completely dismayed and anguished to see what is happening or what has happened in Manipur. I hope peace would prevail.

*(At The Quint, we are answerable only to our audience. Play an active role in shaping our journalism by becoming a member. Because the truth is worth it.)*

**Read Latest News and Breaking News at The Quint, browse for more from news and politics**

---



Speaking truth to power requires allies like you.

Become a Member

675

750 10% off

1500

1800 16% off

4000

5000 20% off

PREMIUM

4 months

12 months

12 months

I-Day discounts across all membership plans! Ltd time only.

[Check Member Benefits](#)

More News

Stay Updated

Subscribe To Our Daily Newsletter And Get News Delivered Straight To Your Inbox.



Join over 120,000 subscribers!

More News

[SUPPORT OUR SPECIAL PROJECTS](#)



JU Student Death & The Horrors of Campus Ragging

Kolkata's Jadavpur University has been rocked by turmoil in the wake of a 17-year-old undergraduate student's death less than a week after he enrolled at the prestigious institute. He was allegedly ragged for over two hours and forced to strip naked before he purportedly fell from the balcony of the hostel building. As The Quint brings you voices of his distraught parents, the protesting students, the alleged cover-up by various stakeholders, and raises bigger questions on how the social evil of ragging continues to

plague India's education system – we need your support. Planning and executing stories from the ground require time and resources – but you have the power to empower us to delve deeper and shine a spotlight on our coverage.

₹

[Know More](#)

x