

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our Subscriber Agreement and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit [www.djreprints.com](http://www.djreprints.com).

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/indian-and-chinese-forces-clash-on-border-indian-army-says-11670869074>

WORLDASIA

# Indian and Chinese Forces Clash on Border, Indian Army Says

Border skirmish is the first since a deadly confrontation in 2020 that has chilled ties between the rivals



Indian Army soldiers patrolled near the Line of Actual Control border with China last year.

PHOTO: MONEY SHARMA/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

By *Rajesh Roy* [Follow](#)

Dec. 12, 2022 1:17 pm ET

**NEW DELHI**—Indian and Chinese security forces clashed on the countries' disputed border alongside a northeastern Indian state last week, injuring several soldiers on both sides, the Indian army said Monday.

The incident is the first engagement between their troops since a deadly June 2020 confrontation on the disputed Himalayan border of India's Ladakh region in which 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese personnel died. That was the worst military confrontation between the two nuclear-armed neighbors in more than five decades.

After the 2020 incident, tensions remained high for months between India and China, which share a 2,000-mile border, called the Line of Actual Control. They pointed fingers at each other for starting that fight, each saying the other side was breaking established rules and boundaries for troop movements.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted Chinese President Xi Jinping at the dinner for heads of state at the recent G-20 meeting in Indonesia, analysts thought there could be a thaw in relations. Earlier this year, in August, troops on both sides also disengaged from deployments at one Himalayan post, seen as an achievement of bilateral border talks. The latest confrontation is expected to further escalate tensions between New Delhi and Beijing and thwart hopes of a near-term resumption in normal ties and bilateral trade.

“The skirmish is indicative of a complete breakdown of trust between the two sides. Peace along the Line of Actual Control is no more possible till the boundary issue is addressed,” said Delhi-based defense analyst, N.C. Bipindra.

Chinese diplomatic officials didn’t immediately comment.

The Indian army, in a brief description of the incident, said that soldiers of the People’s Liberation Army crossed the loosely defined de facto border at the Tawang sector in the Indian state Arunachal Pradesh on Dec. 9, which was contested by Indian soldiers in a “firm and resolute manner.”

The face-off led to “minor injuries to a few personnel from both the sides,” said the Indian army, adding that both sides disengaged from the area immediately. Local Indian and Chinese military officials held a discussion on the matter in line with existing disengagement mechanisms to restore stability to the area, according to the Indian army.

Much of the India-China border is still in dispute, and skirmishes along the border zone aren’t uncommon. Scuffles typically involve patrols from the two sides shoving each other when they meet, particularly when both sides patrol right up to their differing claim lines.

Write to Rajesh Roy at [rajesh.roy@dowjones.com](mailto:rajesh.roy@dowjones.com)

*Appeared in the December 13, 2022, print edition as ‘India Says Its Forces Clashed With Chinese’.*