

Inter-State Border Disputes

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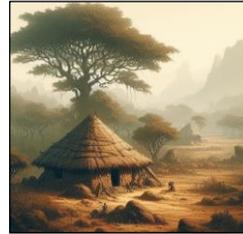
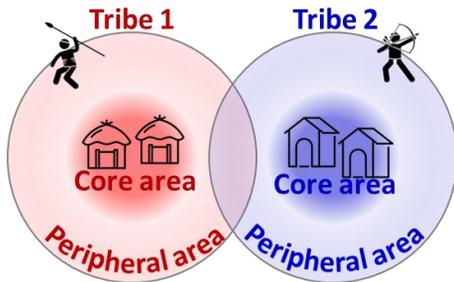
Concept

Lord Curzon (Viceroy 1899–1905)

Modern boundaries as Europeans knew it were unknown in the Asiatic world before colonialism arrived.

Traditional idea of territory

- Closely administered central area, with gradual loosening of grip towards frontiers.
- People belong to land; multiple tribes belong to same land, so there is high tolerance.



Core Area
People live here



Peripheral Area
People use it for hunting, grazing, shifting cultivation

Modern idea of territory

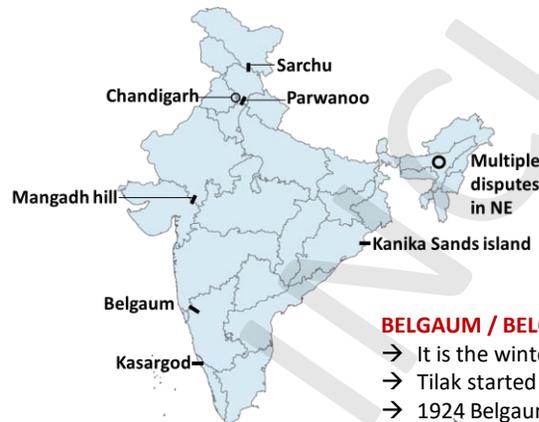
- Centre and borders are administered with equal intensity. No ambiguity over land is allowed.
 - People possess land; only one tribe can own particular land, therefore land disputes arise.
- Hence, modern demarcation of borders is inelastic, and not in congruence with traditional idea of territory.

Conclusion

- Modern boundaries are necessary for administrative efficiency.
- But boundaries should not disturb people's relation with land.
- Modern borders can exist without disturbing land-people relations e.g. Free Movement Regime with Myanmar

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Facts for Prelims



BELGAUM / BELGAVI

- It is the winter capital of Karnataka. [YouTube](#)
- Tilak started his Home Rule League in April 1916 from Belgaum.
- 1924 Belgaum session of Congress, was the only session presided by Gandhi.

Region	Dispute between
Sarchu (Sir Bhum Chun)	Ladakh - Himachal
Parwanoo	Himachal - Haryana
Chandigarh	Punjab - Haryana
Mangadh hill	Rajasthan - Gujarat
Belgaum/Belagavi	Maharashtra - Karnataka
Kasargod	Karnataka - Kerala
Kanika Sands island	Odisha - WB

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Points for Mains

Q. What are some major reasons for inter-state border disputes in India? How can such disputes be resolved?

Historical Reasons

- Britishers created boundaries based on annexations, instead of cultural identity.
- State Reorganization done after independence mostly used district boundaries created by British.

Geographical Reasons

- Shifting rivers, thick forests, difficult terrain makes demarcation difficult.

Political Reasons

- Politicians provoke people to divert attention from real issues like health, education, sanitation, etc.

I read I forget, I see I remember | See explanation video on app "All Inclusive IAS" or website www.allinclusiveias.com

Impact of inter-state border disputes

- **Economic impact:** companies are reluctant to invest in disputed areas, this impacts regional development. [Link](#)
- **Regionalism:** Regional sentiments become stronger which further spoils inter-state relations.
- **Social impact:** feeling of hatred and alienation develops, which creates division in society.
- **Security:** people pick up arms to solve border dispute themselves. [Link](#)
- **Separatism:** Secessionist tendencies may develop if border disputes remain unsolved.
- **Loss of life:** 6 Assam policemen died at Assam-Mizoram border violence in July 2021 [Link](#)

Constitutional mechanisms to solve boundary disputes (Think of 3 organs : Legislature, Judiciary, Executive)

- **Article 3 - Parliament** can change boundary/area/name of any state.
- **Article 131 - Supreme Court** can adjudicate dispute between two or more states.
- **Article 263 - Inter-State Council** can give recommendations to solve inter-state disputes (but it is not binding).

Way forward

- **Listen to grievances** of all stakeholders to understand core issue of the dispute.
- **Find political solution** that is acceptable to all, instead of relying on courts.
- **Be flexible** and use give-and-take approach instead of zero-sum game.
- **Demarcate borders** without displacing people as it disturbs their relation with land.
- **Make borders irrelevant** by reducing border control and increasing people to people contact. eg FMR with Myanmar
- **Protect cultural rights** of all ethnic groups, so that people don't feel the need to change their state.

<https://youtu.be/rrrH9Ozd9uco&t=133>



Conclusion

- It is high time that states understand the importance of peaceful co-existence.
- States must live amicably with each other. They must realize that we can change our friends, not neighbors.
- Consultation, not confrontation, should be the mantra to solve border disputes.

It is ironic that while European countries have made their borders irrelevant, Indian states are still fighting for borders within the country. [Link](#) [Link](#) [Link](#)

Inter-state Border Disputes

Interview



India's flag has reached the moon. But states in India are still fighting over land borders. Why can't we use satellite technology to solve border disputes?

Sir, 15 years ago ([Chandrayaan-1 2008](#)) we placed our flag on moon and also developed Google maps like capabilities through Bhuvan ([Bhuvan 2009](#)). So our space technology is very advanced. But it cannot solve border disputes. Border disputes happen because two states lay claim to same piece of land. Satellites can only give us the photo of land, but who should administer that land, has to be decided by people and governments.

THE HINDU 
Centre to use satellite mapping to resolve NE border disputes

Northeastern Space Application Centre

- Established in 2000, HQ Meghalaya
- It is Joint Venture of Department of Space and North Eastern Council
- It uses space science for development of North-East e.g. land mapping, flood early warning, etc.

Centre to use satellite mapping to resolve NE border disputes

- NESAC will create map of state borders using satellite images.
- Centre will use satellite images to solve border disputes.
- However, govt officials say that satellite images cannot resolve disputes. Disputes arise mainly because there is a difference in perception regarding what constitutes our area and what constitutes their area.
- For example, Mizoram wants to follow the border decided by 1875 notification, but Assam wants border as per 1986 notification. Satellite map will not tell which notification should be followed.

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Read more

- Assam Arunachal sign 'Namsai Declaration' to reduce number of disputed villages from 123 to 86. [Link](#)
- Maharashtra govt accuses Karnataka govt of committing atrocities against Marathi people [Link](#)
- Sansad TV Inter State Border Dispute, 15-12-2022 [YouTube](#)
- When Brothers Fight, Dirty Politics Wins [Link](#)

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