

Ceasefire Violations along LoC

1) Introduction

- The term Line of Control (LoC) refers to the military control line between the Indian and Pakistani controlled parts of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Originally known as the Cease-fire Line, it was redesignated as the "Line of Control" following the Simla Agreement, which was signed on 3 July 1972.
- To curb cycle of violence along the 725km long Line of Control (LOC), which divides J&K into two parts, a landmark ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan was signed in 2003.
- However, the peace didn't last very long and was hampered by a string of actions by both sides.
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2) Causes

- Continuous attacks by Pakistan in the Indian regions and military bases – Pathankot attack, Uri Attack and consequent surgical strikes as a retaliation measure
- Lack of a truly democratic government in Pakistan allowing major say of military in cross country relations.
- Lack of effective engagement on both sides for a comprehensive dialogue
- Failure of negotiations at diplomatic level and no concrete stance globally to handle Pakistan's state sponsored terrorism.
- "Pakistan's deep state is not in sync with the political leadership and even if it accepts the need for engagement, it wants to display its ability to calibrate the proxy war.

- Lack of people to people, Cultural contact, and contact among the intelligentsia of both countries leading to a feeling of distrust among the people of both countries.
- The ceasefire violations are for aiding infiltration
- Whenever there had been any initiative for peace process or bilateral talks between India and Pakistan, ceasefire violation occurred.
- Pakistan wants to display its ability to start a proxy war.
- Pakistan army's identity and its ideology will get defeated if ever peace is achieved between the two nations

3) Consequences

- The brunt of these exchanges is borne by the civilian population in the border villages.
- The density of civilian settlement is much higher on the Indian side so the increased firing across the border creates more pressure on India.
- The current spiral of violence threatens the peace dividend along the border.
- LoC trade, farming in the border villages, tourism and investment may get substantially affected
- Loss of soldiers and it may escalate into a war, which can further intensify the present condition.
- India may lose international support for its bid to UNSC permanent seat
- Increased defence expenditure on both sides compromising development of the nation
- Loss to infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, tourism etc
- Ceasefire causes psychological effect on people both physically and mentally
- Access to education, health services, transportation, emergency and other basic services is consistently unavailable or disrupted.
- Security fencing laid by the security agencies in the middle of cultivable land has impacted crops and led to large parts of land lying unused.
- Local and migrant workers are unable to work in the fields due to fear of firing and shelling, leading to large-scale migration and displacement.
- overwhelming presence of security forces - many towns in the border areas almost seem like military towns

4) Solution

- The response by the Indian Army will meet the immediate psychological need of the hour.
- Need for an urgent political initiative to prevent the cycle of brutality and reprisal from acquiring its own momentum, as happened in the early 2010s.

- It is time the government gathered the reins to address the issue politically and have peace restored on the border.
- The success of Naga peace talks is one of the best examples of conflict resolution till date. This should happen with the NSA-level talks.
- India should intensify the vigil along the borders
- Any talks between the two governments must involve the border communities who are directly affected by the conflict and have a role to play in finding out a meaningful solution.
- The governments and media houses of both sides must realise that sensationalising the political statements and instigating barbs will only lead to escalations that costs more to the civilians and security personnel and will contribute nothing to building peace between the two countries.
- There should be deeper discussions and deliberations on the ceasefire agreement of 2003 and its relevance in the current day's context within civil and political circles.
- This rising tension needs to be cooled down. The response has to be on different fronts - military, political and diplomatic and these cannot be stand alone.

