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Daily news summary**India-China Security Talks and LAC Normalisation**

UPSC Civil Services · 26 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- India's National Security Adviser met China's Foreign Minister in Beijing, emphasizing that complete peace along the **Line of Actual Control** is a prerequisite for normalising bilateral ties.

BACKGROUND OF HIGH-LEVEL BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

- Diplomatic talks stem from unresolved military standoffs along the eastern Ladakh sector and disputed border segments in the Arunachal Pradesh sector.
- Special Representatives (SR) mechanism was created in 2003 to seek an agreed framework for a boundary settlement and maintain peace in border areas.

INDIA'S STATED POLICY POSITION

- India maintains a stance that overall bilateral relations, economic cooperation, and multilateral coordination (such as in BRICS) cannot proceed independently of border tranquility.
- Emphasized full disengagement and de-escalation along friction points across the LAC.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Reinforces India's strategic refusal to uncouple trade and diplomatic exchanges from territorial sovereignty disputes.
- Directly affects regional security dynamics in South Asia and regional economic integration efforts.

KEY TERMS

- **Line of Actual Control (LAC):** The demarcation line that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory in the border regions.
- **Special Representatives Mechanism:** A high-level dialogue forum established by India and China in 2003 to resolve the boundary question and ensure border peace.

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MAINS DISCUSSION

- Analyze India's strategic policy of linking political and economic ties with border tranquility along the LAC with China.

KEY DATA

- **Border Length:** 3,488 km - Length of the India-China border divided into Western, Middle, and Eastern sectors.
- **Disputed Sectors:** Western (Aksai Chin) & Eastern (Arunachal Pradesh) - Primary operational zones of boundary disagreement between India and China.

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