

How India Considers Tibet

An Autonomous Region of China



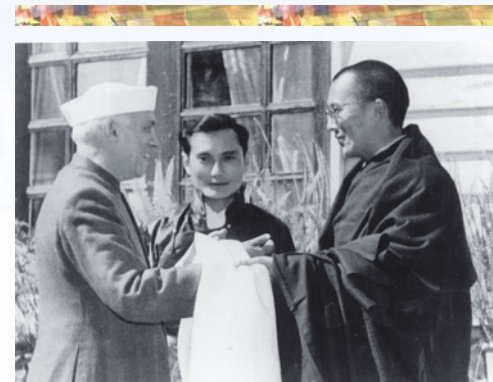
After the Chinese occupation of Tibet, the Ministry of External Affairs had to decide on the status of Tibet



The status of Tibet has implications for its frontier with India (today Sino-Indian border)

After the Chinese troops entered Tibet in October 1950, Nehru wrote that the 'regional autonomy' promised by Beijing "can obviously not be anything like the autonomy, verging on independence, which Tibet has enjoyed during the last forty years or so. But it is reasonable to assume from the very nature of Tibetan geography, terrain and climate, that a large measure of autonomy is almost inevitable". It was not to be so.

By signing the Panchsheel Agreement in 1954, India officially acknowledged that Tibet was 'a Region of China'.



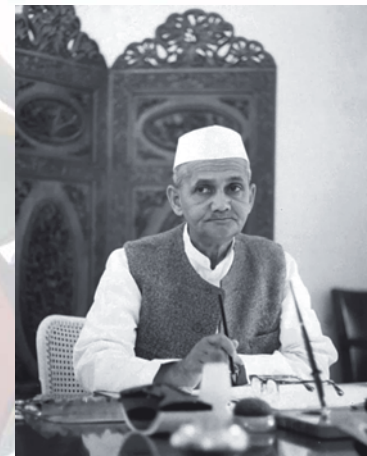
Nehru gave up Tibet's special status



Since Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's times, India's Tibet policy has not changed



'My young friend' Deng Xiaoping to Rajiv Gandhi (1988)

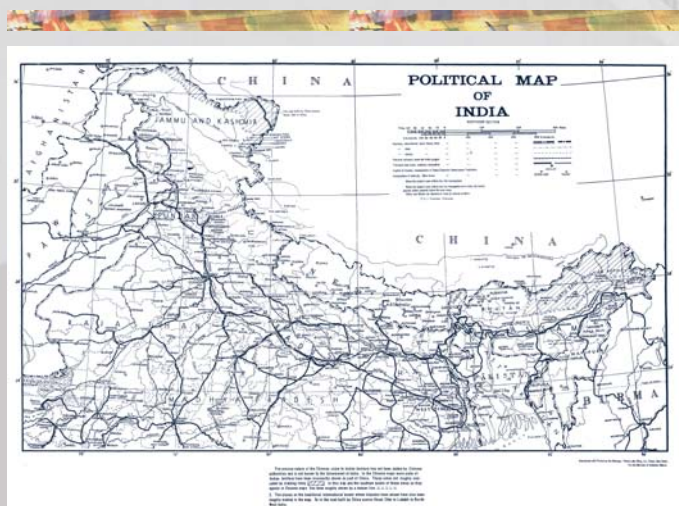


Lal Bahadur Shastri wanted to acknowledge Tibet's truly autonomous status

In 1965, the Indian Representative at the UN stated: "The Dalai Lama has been living in India for some years now, and is carrying on his religious and humanitarian activities without any restrictions from us. We shall continue to give the Dalai Lama and his simple and peace-loving people all our hospitality".

In December 1988, a joint statement signed by Rajiv Gandhi during his visit to Beijing "reiterated the long-standing and consistent policy of the Government of India that Tibet is an autonomous region of China".

Still today, this is India's policy.



A new neighbour has settled beyond the Himalayas



The UN General Assembly passed three resolutions in favour of Tibet in 1959, 1961 and 1965