



SENKAKU ISLANDS – INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

News: *Chinese vessels maintain presence in East China Sea near disputed Senkaku islands for record 158 days*

What's in the news?

- Japan protested Beijing after four armed Chinese coastguard vessels entered the waters of the Senkaku island, which Tokyo considers its territory.

Key takeaways:

- **China's Coast Guard ships** have been in the waters surrounding Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea for a record 158 days, breaking the previous record established in 2021.

Senkaku Islands:

- The Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands are a group of **uninhabited islands** located in the **East China Sea**.
- They are known as **Diaoyu in China and Senkaku in Japan**.
- The sovereignty over these islands is disputed between Japan, China, and Taiwan.



Senkaku Island Dispute:

The Senkaku Islands dispute, or Diaoyu Islands dispute, is a territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands known as:



- the Senkaku Islands in Japan,
- the Diaoyu Islands in China, and
- the Tiaoyutai Islands in Taiwan.

Both Japan and China claim ownership of these islands.

Basis of the Dispute between Japan and China:

- The dispute primarily stems from conflicting national claims to sovereignty over the islands. Japan has administered the islands since **1972**, following the U.S. returning administrative rights to Japan after World War II.
- However, China and Taiwan claim historical ties to the islands dating back several centuries.

Concerns of the Dispute:

- The dispute has led to **increased military activity** in the East China Sea, raising concerns about potential conflicts.
- It also affects broader relations between China and Japan, influencing trade, diplomacy, and regional security dynamics.

Senkaku Dispute and U.S.:

- The United States, officially does not take a position on the sovereignty of the islands but recognizes the administrative control by Japan.
- The U.S. has stated that the islands are covered under the **U.S.-Japan Security Treaty**, implying that any attack on the islands would prompt a response under this treaty.

Present Administration:

- They were never administered by any other country before Japan incorporated them into its territory in 1895.
- **Currently, Japan administers** and controls the Senkaku islands as part of the city of Ishigaki in Okinawa Prefecture.

Go back to basics:

Location of Senkaku Island:

- The Senkaku Islands are located in the East China Sea between **Japan, China, and Taiwan**.

Geography:

- The Senkaku chain comprises **five islets** – Uotsuri Island, Kuba Island, Taisho Island, Kitakojima Island, and Minamikojima Island – and three rocks – Tobise Island, Okinokitaiwa Island, and Okinominamiwa Island



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Strategic Significance of Location of Senkaku Island:

- The islands are close to strategically **important shipping lanes**, offer **rich fishing grounds**, and are thought to contain **oil deposits**.

