

## Congress Accuses Government of Hiding Truth on China Border Standoff



The Congress party has launched a fierce attack on the government, accusing it of hiding the truth about the ongoing border standoff with China and failing to protect India's territorial integrity. The opposition's criticism comes after the Supreme Court, while staying a defamation case against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, made strong remarks about his claims of Chinese incursions. This has triggered a war of words, with the Congress coining a new acronym for the government's China policy: DDLJ, for "Deny, Distract, Lie, and Justify."

In a statement on Monday, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh argued that the government has been "concealing and diverting the truth" since the deadly Galwan clash in 2020. He raised a series of pointed questions, challenging Prime Minister Modi's 2020 statement that no Chinese soldiers had entered Indian territory. Ramesh also questioned the effectiveness of recent disengagement agreements, asking if they have truly restored the "status quo of April 2020" as claimed by military officials.

The controversy was reignited by a Supreme Court observation that a "true Indian" would not make claims of territorial losses without credible proof. The court questioned Gandhi's social media remarks about China occupying "2,000 sq km" of Indian land and "thrashing our soldiers," suggesting such statements should be made in Parliament.

Responding to the court's comments, Congress doubled down on its position. Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said that while the government has accurate data, the opposition's role is to raise concerns. Other party leaders, including Randeep Surjewala and K.C. Venugopal asserted

that questioning the government on its China policy is a "moral obligation" and an act of patriotism.

The government, however, has dismissed the allegations as politically motivated. BJP leaders, including Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, have accused the Congress and Rahul Gandhi of making "irresponsible statements" that damage national security and demoralize the armed forces. They also pointed to what they allege was Gandhi's history of "anti-national" statements. The ongoing dispute highlights the deep political divisions surrounding a sensitive national security issue, with both sides trading barbs while the border standoff continues.