**6th Sem (Q 2018) Prepared by: Mala Moni Kalita**

**Frontiers and Boundaries, their differences with examples:**

A frontier is a wide tract of border land which by virtue of its ruggedness or other difficulty, served as a buffer between two states.

A boundary is a clearly defined line expressed either as verbal description (delimited), or as a series of physical marks on the ground.”

There is a tendency to use these terms synonymously without understanding their geostrategic implications, which can be traced back to the evolution of the nation states. Political and military control are intrinsically linked to each other and began with the heartland and extended outwards to the frontier regions where population was sparse, terrain difficult, communications poor and little or no economic activity.

Competitive conflict among nations began over control of the frontier regions. With development, better communications, and economic opportunities and at times for sheer prestige, contiguous nations jostled to seize control of the frontier regions. This competitive conflict — varying in intensity from flag marking to war — leads to the creation of a border. At times after partition of states, disputed territory without having been a frontier region per se may be treated as a border.

The difference between boundary and frontier is same as that of the difference between line and area. Frontiers are area and boundaries are linear in character.

Both boundary and frontiers is Border separating two sovereign states. A line separating two sovereign states is called boundary (38th parallel separating N. Korea and S. Korea, 49th parallel between USA and Canada). Areas near or beyond boundary are called frontiers (Himalayan frontiers separating India and Nepal)

Frontiers are geographical in nature whereas Boundaries are political in nature (Boundaries are demarcated as per political scenario like recently there is land deal between India and Bangladesh so alterations of boundary frontiers are geographical phenomenon)

Frontier is an integrating factor between states on either side and Boundary is a separating factor.

Since the root cause is primordial in nature, this process takes a long time. Borders get established, even when claims are very rigid, for trade and passage. Along the borders, nations continue to strive for a position of advantage to reinforce their claims or to cause embarrassment to each other as part of the omnipresent competitive conflict.

As a result, a border has to be defended at a phenomenal cost.

***Example:*** The Line of Actual Control (LAC) with Tibet and Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir are classic examples of borders even though the latter was created as a result of partition and three wars. The difference in terminology is that the former came into being based upon the actual positions held by troops after the war in 1962, while the latter was settled along the United Nations- brokered Ceasefire Line of 1949, which was upheld after 1965 and was changed marginally post-1971, when status quo was maintained with respect to gains and losses.