

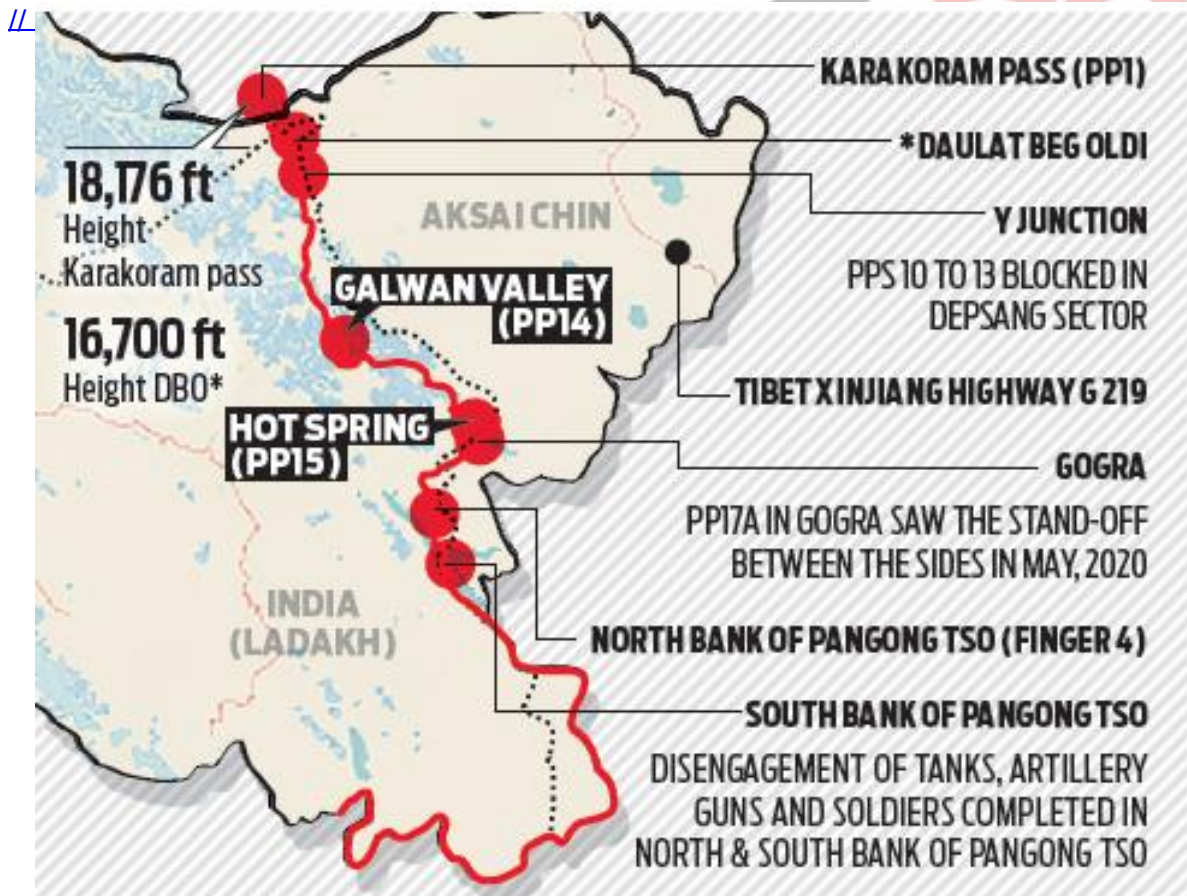


India-China Military Talks

Why in News

Recently, the **14th round of Corps Commander level talks** concluded between **India and China**. The meeting resulted in **no breakthrough for disengagement from Hot Springs and Gogra Post**, but the two sides have agreed to meet again soon.

- The meeting had a **positive outcome** in comparison to the last meeting, whereby no joint statement was released and the two sides had issued independent statements blaming each other for the situation.



Key Points

- **Location of Hot Springs and Gogra Post:**
 - **Hot Springs** is just **north of the Chang Chenmo river** and **Gogra Post** is **east of the point where the river takes a hairpin bend** coming southeast from Galwan Valley and turning southwest.

- The area is **north of the Karakoram Range of mountains**, which lies **north of the Pangong Tso lake**, and **south east of Galwan Valley**.

▪ **Importance of Hot Springs and Gogra Post :**

- The area lies **close to Kongka Pass**, one of the main passes, which, according to China, marks the boundary between India and China.
- India's claim of the international boundary lies significantly east, as it includes the entire **Aksai Chin** area as well.
- Hot Springs and Gogra Post are **close to the boundary between two of the most historically disturbed provinces (Xinjiang and Tibet)** of China.

Pangong Tso lake

- Pangong Lake is located in the Union Territory of **Ladakh**.
- It is situated at a height of almost 4,350m and is the world's highest saltwater lake.
- Extending to almost 160km, one-third of the Pangong Lake lies in India and the other two-thirds in China.

Galwan Valley

- The valley refers to the land that sits between steep mountains that buffet the Galwan River.
- The river has its source in Aksai Chin, on China's side of the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**, and it flows from the east to Ladakh, where it meets the Shyok river on India's side of the LAC.
- The valley is strategically located between Ladakh in the west and Aksai Chin in the east, which is currently controlled by China as part of its Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Chang Chenmo River

- Chang Chenmo River or Changchenmo River is a tributary of the Shyok River, part of the **Indus River system**.
- It is at the southern edge of the disputed Aksai Chin region and north of the Pangong Lake basin.
- The source of Chang Chenmo is near the Lanak Pass.

Kongka Pass

- The Kongka Pass or Kongka La is a low mountain pass over a hill that intrudes into the Chang Chenmo Valley. It is in the disputed India-China border area in Ladakh.

Karakoram Range

- It is also known as Krishnagiri which is situated in the northernmost range of the Trans-Himalayan ranges. It forms India's frontiers with Afghanistan and China.
- It extends eastwards from the Pamir for about 800 km. It is a range with lofty peaks (elevation 5,500 m and above).
- Some of the peaks are more than 8,000 metre above sea level. K2 (8,611 m)[Godwin Austen or Qogir] is the second highest peak in the world and the highest peak in the Indian Union.
- The Ladakh Plateau lies to the north-east of the Karakoram Range.

Source: IE

