



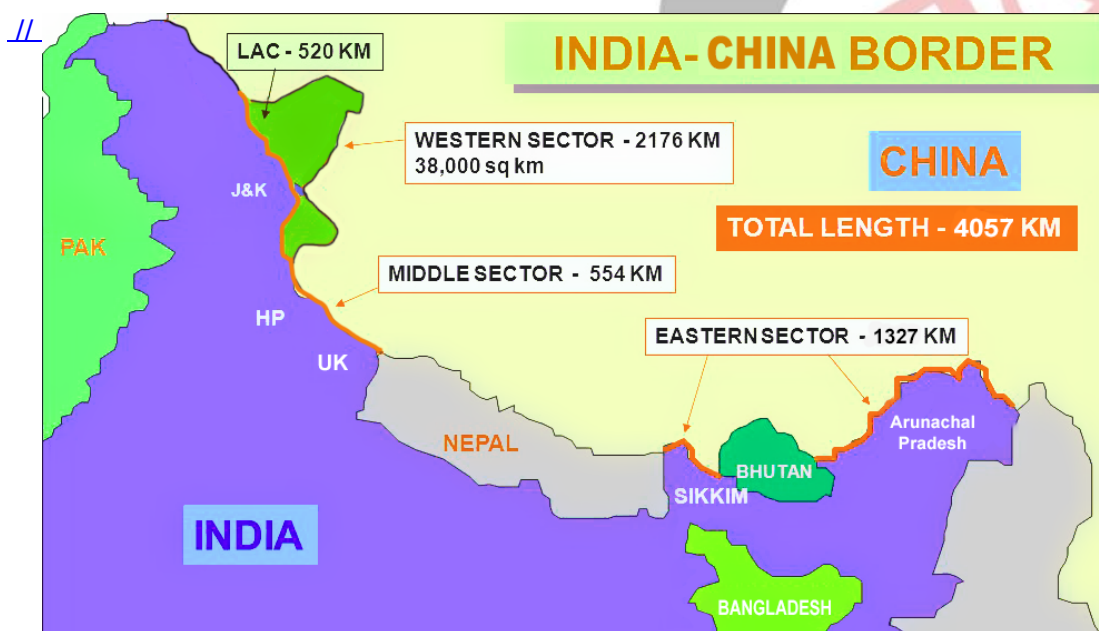
NBWL Approves Road Expansion in Ladakh

Source: [BS](#)

Why in News?

The standing committee of the [National Board for Wildlife \(NBWL\)](#) has approved five key road stretches in Ladakh (four of which pass through [Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary](#)), including a route to [Daulat Beg Oldie \(DBO\)](#).

- The NBWL approved the road stretches with conditions to implement wildlife passage plans to protect species in the Karakoram sanctuary.
- The move significantly aids the Ministry of Defence, enhancing infrastructure development along the LAC in response to the 2020 [India-China clashes in Galwan Valley](#).



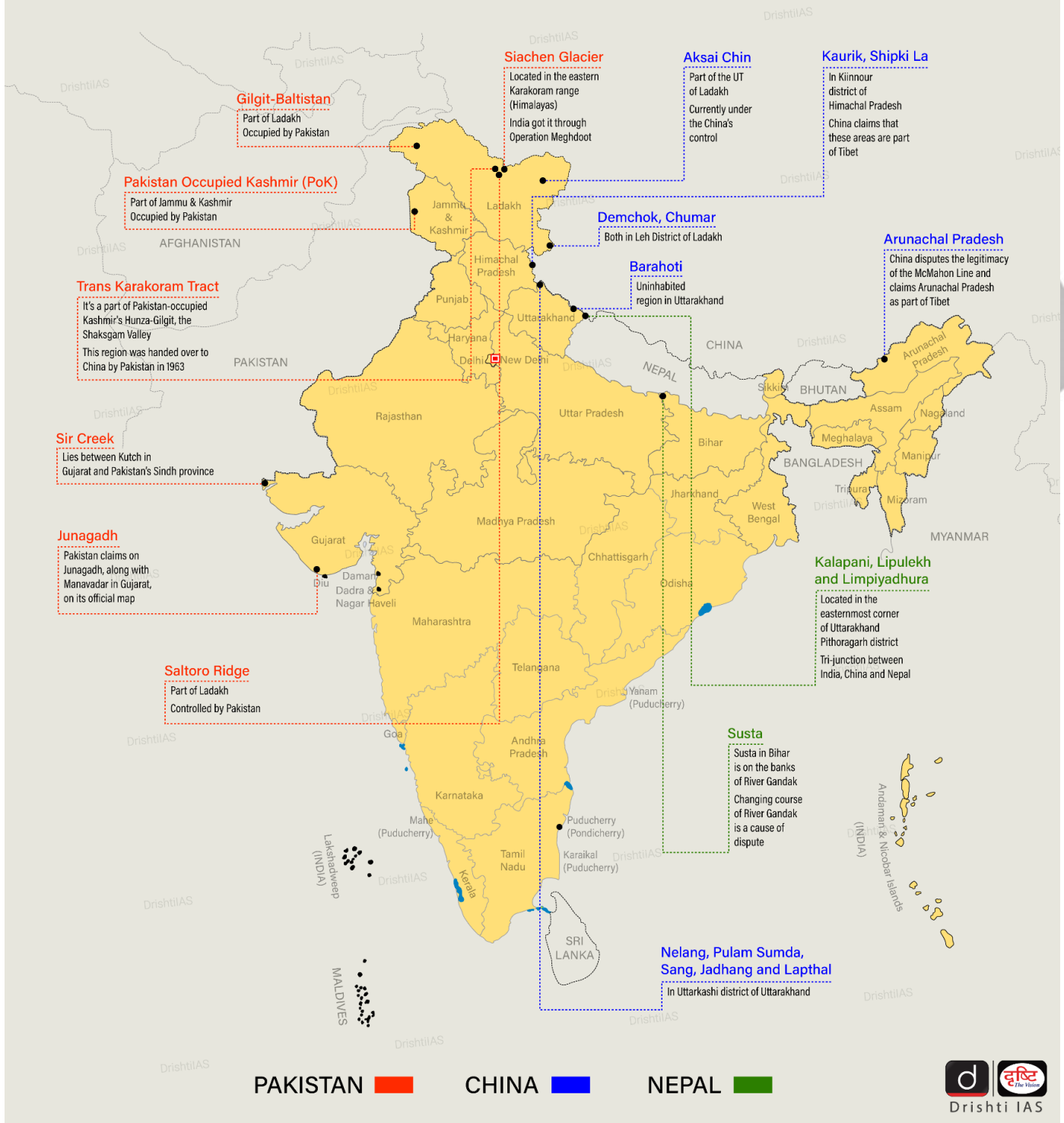
What is the Strategic Significance of this Move?

- These routes are crucial for troop movement and logistics and supporting the civilian population particularly after the 2020 [Galwan Valley](#) clashes.
 - The **existing Durbuk-Shyok-DBO (DS-DBO) route, which is 255 km long**, runs along the LAC and is within sight of Chinese-held territory to its east.
 - Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) is the **country's southernmost military outpost in Ladakh** and houses its highest airstrip.
- The Leh-Chalunka road (one of the five approved road stretches), connects the Indus Valley with the Shyok Valley and traverses the Ladakh range, representing the **sole motorised route over this range**.

What are the Other Major Developmental Projects along India's Border?

- **India-China Border:**
 - [Vibrant Villages Programme \(VVP\)](#)
 - [Border Area Development Programme \(BADP\)](#)
- **India-Pakistan Border:**
 - **Smart Fencing in India ([Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System - CIBMS](#))**

India's Border Dispute With Neighbors



National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- National Board for Wildlife is a statutory Board constituted officially in 2003 under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
 - It replaced the Indian Board for Wildlife, established in 1952.
- The **NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister** and is responsible for promotion of conservation and development of wildlife and forests.
- The board is **'advisory'** in nature and can only advise the Government on policy making for conservation of wildlife.
- It serves as **an apex body for the review of all wildlife-related matters** and for the approval of projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.
- The standing committee of **NBWL is chaired by the [Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change](#)**.
 - The standing committee approves all the projects falling within protected wildlife areas or within 10 km of them.

Read More: [India's Border and It's Management](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q1. With reference to 'National Investment and Infrastructure Fund', which of the following statements is/are correct? (2017)

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
2. It has a corpus of `4,00,000 crore at present.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)