



# drishti

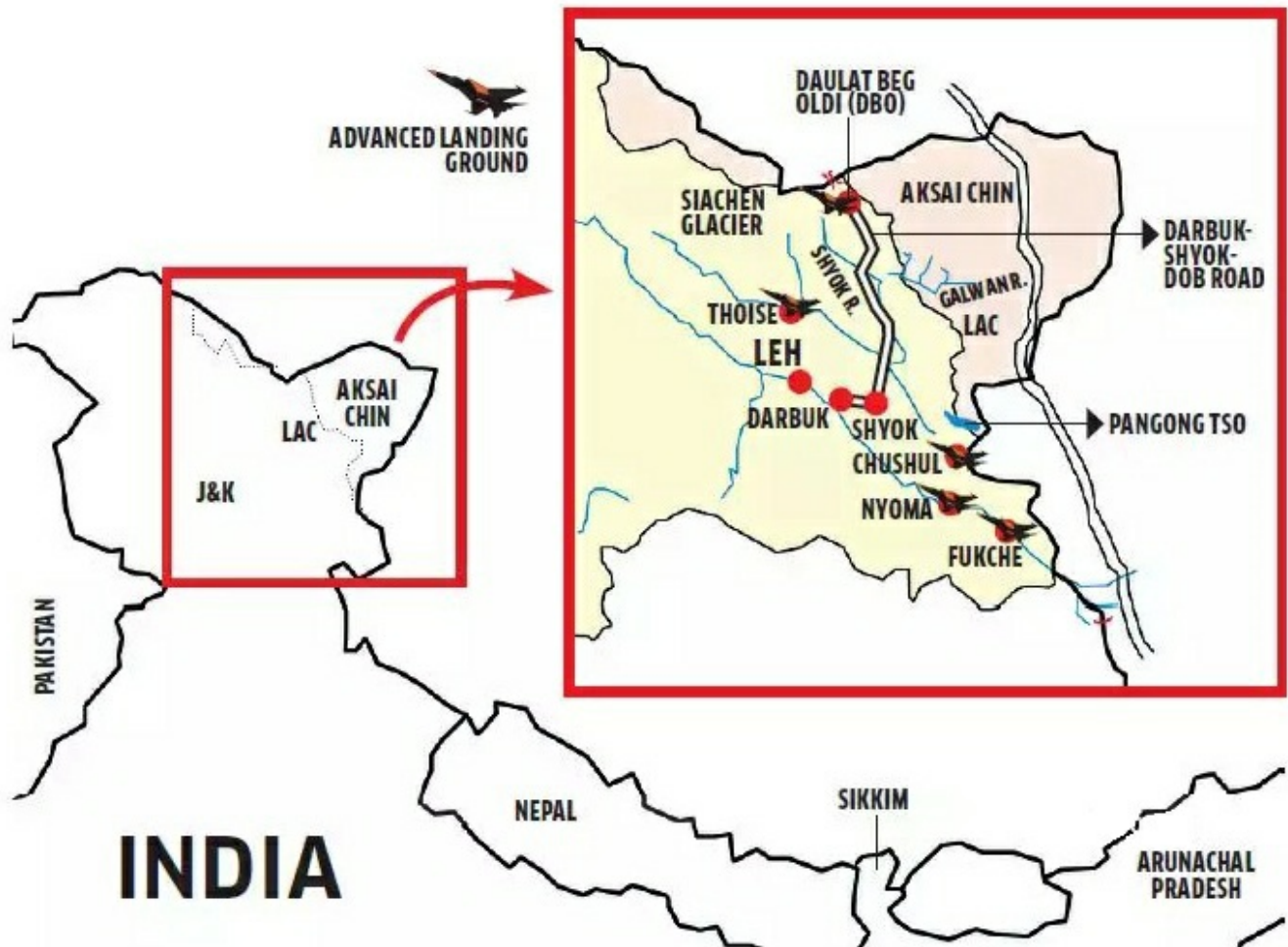
## Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie Road

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### Why in News

The **Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road** has been in the making for around two decades and is expected to be completed by 2020.

### Key Points



- The **255-km road** from **Darbuk** traverses at an **altitude of 14,000 feet** and reaches **Shyok**, the **last Indian village in the region**.
- This road **joins Leh to the Karakoram Pass**, which divides Ladakh from China's Xinjiang province.
- Between Shyok and Karakoram Pass lies **Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO)**, a **plateau at an altitude of over 16,000 feet** and the **location of an Advanced Landing Ground (ALG)** used by the air force to drop supplies.
  - DBO is India's **northernmost corner**, which in army parlance is called **Sub-Sector North**.
- **Background:**
  - The road's **construction** was started in **2000** and was to be completed by 2012 at a cost of Rs. 320 crore under the **monitoring of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**.
  - However, the construction **could not be finished** as the road was **aligned with the Shyok riverbed** that led to it being **damaged every summer during flooding**.
  - Later, major portions of the road were realigned, keeping them away from the river.
  - In October **2019**, the **430 m Colonel Chewang Rinchen Setu** over Shyok river was inaugurated that joins Durbuk to DBO in Eastern Ladakh.
    - Along with it, the **Siachen Glacier** area of Ladakh was declared open for tourists by the Government of India.
- India has **decided to not stop road construction** on its side of the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** despite the **border confrontations** and **objections by China** as it does not want India to utilise the DSDBO road to its full potential.
- **Significance of the Road:**
  - DBO is located only 9 km away from the LAC with China and the road will **help manage the border and the areas adjoining Aksai Chin**, Chip Chap River and Jiwan Nalla.
  - It will also **ensure faster deployment of troops** in the area.
    - Before the laying of the road, the only way to reach the area was via the ALG, where heavy-lift aircraft can land.
  - From the DSDBO road, a **road branches off towards Galwan Valley** which had prompted the **stand-off in Galwan Valley**.
    - Indian troops have been patrolling up to this area but they will have road access and can be present there.

## Way Forward

- In the **Wuhan** (2018) and **Mahabalipuram** (2019) summits, both India and China had reaffirmed that they would make efforts to ensure peace and tranquillity in the border areas.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, India and China completed their **70 years of diplomatic relations**. Both countries have **resolved border issues peacefully in the past** four decades which gives them hope that the tensions will subside soon.

- India and China are amongst the largest economies, demography, markets and militaries of the world. Therefore, it is in the interests of both the countries to **align their energies** for the **growth and development of their people, region and global peace.**

**Source: ET**