



# drishti

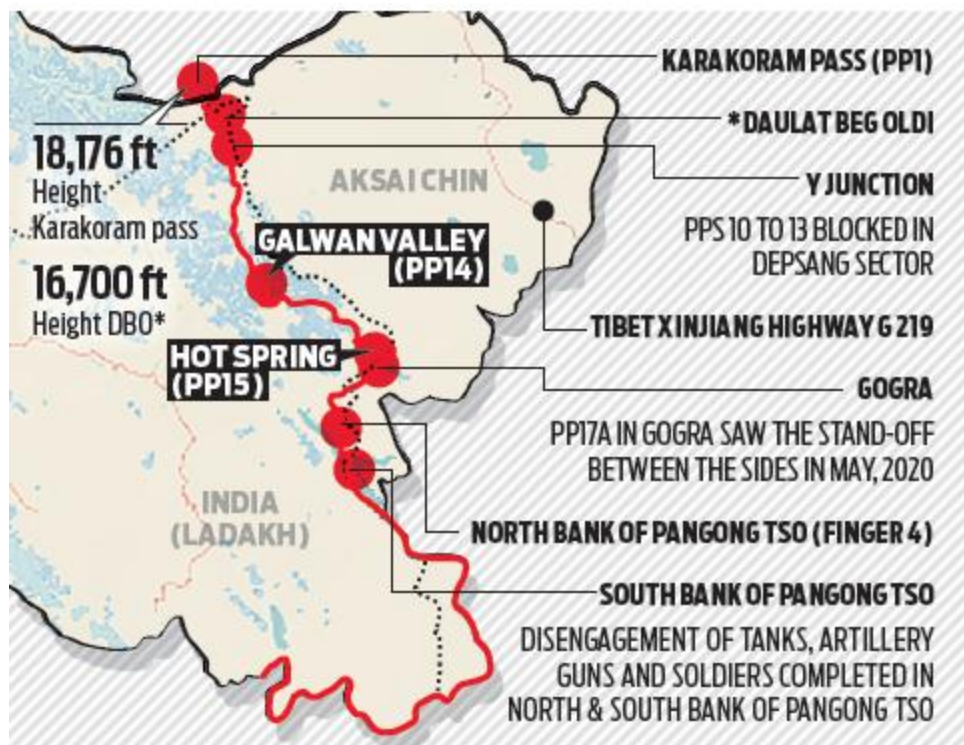
## China Not Leaving Hot Springs & Gogra Post

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/china-not-leaving-hot-springs-gogra-post

### Why in News

Recently, during the 11<sup>th</sup> round of discussions between the senior military commanders of India and China to resolve the **standoff in eastern Ladakh**, **China refused to vacate two of the four original friction points.**

- At two friction points, **Patrolling Point 15 (PP15) in Hot Springs**, and **PP17A near Gogra Post**, China still has a platoon-level strength each, along with vehicles.
- Other two are the **Galwan valley** and the **Depsang plains**.



### Key Points

- **Patrolling Point 15 and 17A:**

- Along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** between India and China, Indian Army has been given certain locations that its troops have access to patrol the area under its control.

- These points are known as patrolling points, or PPs, and are decided by the **China Study Group (CSG)**.

- **CSG was set-up in 1976**, when Indira Gandhi was the prime minister, and is the **apex decision-making body on China**.

- Barring certain areas, like **Depsang Plains**, these patrolling points are on the LAC, and troops access these points to assert their control over the territory.

- It is an important exercise since the **boundary between India and China is not yet officially demarcated**.

- **LAC** is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.

- PP15 and PP17A are **two of the 65 patrolling points in Ladakh along the LAC**.

- Both these points are in an area where **India and China largely agree on the alignment of the LAC**.

- PP15 is located in an area known as the **Hot Springs**, while PP17A is near an area called the **Gogra post**.

- **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:**

- 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 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**