



## LADAKH'S STRATEGIC LOCATIONS: NATIONAL ISSUES

**NEWS:** Indian Army resumes patrolling in Depsang, first since disengagement

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

After three years of limited access following the 2020 standoff, the Indian Army has resumed patrolling in the eastern Ladakh areas of Depsang and Demchok. The disengagement from these final points of contention restores the pre-April 2020 status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), aimed at strengthening peace and stability in the region.

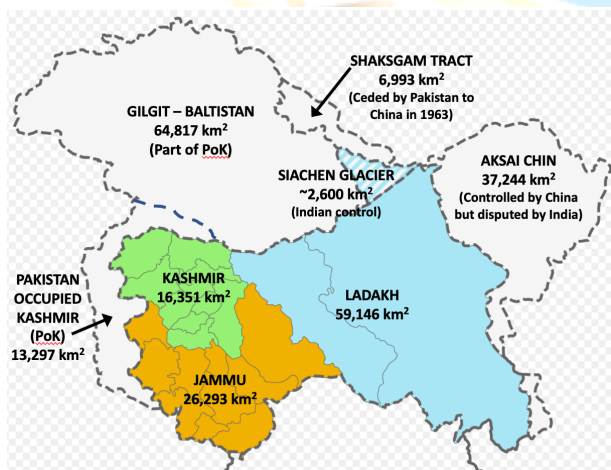
### Ladakh's Strategic Locations in News:

#### Depsang Plains

- **Location:** Eastern Ladakh, near the Karakoram Pass, connecting Ladakh to China's Xinjiang region.
- **Significance:** Flat terrain allows for easy military movement; has been a major point of contention, especially during the 2020 stand-off.
- **Update:** Patrolling has recently resumed post-disengagement, aiming to return to the pre-April 2020 status.

#### Demchok

- **Location:** Southeastern Ladakh, close to the LAC.
- **Population:** Predominantly nomadic herders.
- **Significance:** Ongoing friction point with China since 2017 due to infrastructure and grazing disputes.
- **Update:** Recent disengagement targets pre-2020 status, though exact patrolling limits remain unspecified.





## Galwan Valley

- **Location:** Near the confluence of the Galwan and Shyok Rivers.
- **Significance:** Site of a violent clash in June 2020, leading to casualties; buffer zones have been established.
- **Update:** Patrolling here is on hold pending new guidelines.

## Gogra and Hot Springs

- **Location:** Northwest of Pangong Tso.
- **Significance:** Saw heavy troop presence and tensions during the 2020 stand-off.
- **Update:** Buffer zones created; patrolling resumption is under discussion.

## Pangong Tso (Lake)

- **Location:** High-altitude lake extending from India to China, with about two-thirds under Chinese control.

## Line of Actual Control (LAC)

- **Definition:** De facto border between India and China, with varying perceptions of its boundary creating disputes.

## Limit of Patrolling (LoP)

- **Definition:** Farthest patrolling point marking India's perception of the LAC.
- **Note:** LoP in Depsang is distant from the LAC, highlighting strategic and disputed areas in Ladakh.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-army-resumes-patrolling-in-depsang-first-since-disengagement/article68830238.ece>