

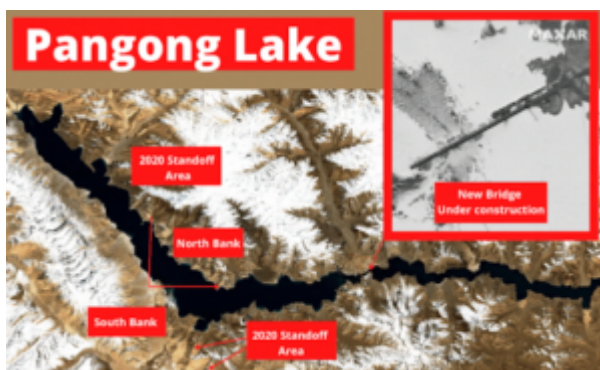
Chinese bridge at Pangong Tso

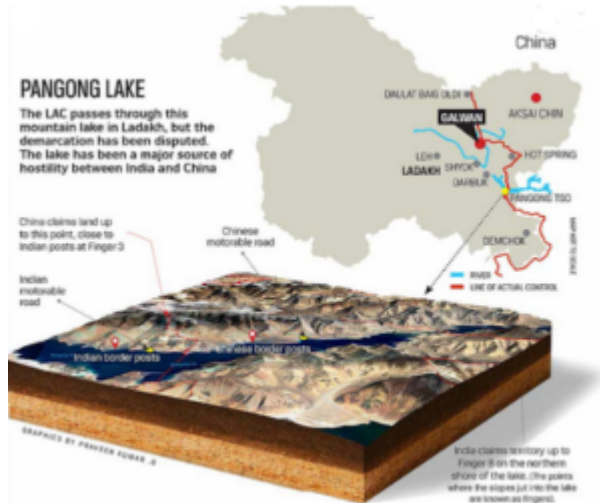
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In news- Recently, Satellite images showed an under-construction bridge connecting the north and south banks of the Pangong Tso lake right near India's claim line that has remained under Chinese control for decades. The under-construction bridge is approximately 315 meters long.

About Pangong Tso lake-

- Formed from Tethys geosyncline, Pangong Tso is a **long narrow, deep, endorheic (landlocked) lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas.**
- In the Ladakhi language, Pangong means extensive concavity and Tso is a lake in Tibetan.
- The lake's water, while crystal clear, is **brackish**, making it undrinkable.
- **During winter the lake freezes completely**, despite being saline water and it is **not a part of the Indus river basin area.**
- It is a nearly 135-km long, narrow lake – 6 km at its widest point and shaped like a boomerang.
- **The Karakoram Mountain range** with heights of over 6,000 metres including K2, the world's second highest peak, **ends at the north bank of Pangong Tso.**





- **Its southern bank too has high broken mountains** sloping towards Spangur Lake in the south.
- In the 1990s, when the Indian side laid claims over the area, the Chinese army built a metal-top road contending that it was part of the Aksai Chin.
- One-third of the water body, its **45 km stretch is in Indian control while the rest of the 90 km is under Chinese control.**
- **The LAC, running north-south, cuts the western part of the lake, aligned east-west.**
- An Inner Line Permit is required to visit the lake as it lies on the Sino-Indian Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- The barren mountains on the lake's northern bank, called the Chang Chenmo, jut forward in major spurs, which the Army calls "**fingers**".
- At the lake's north bank, according to India, the international boundary is close to Khurnak Fort, a 19th-century ruin.
- India says the LAC passes through Finger 8 but China claims it is farther west.