

# Pangong Tso Lake

August 19, 2020

## Why in news?

- The Indian and Chinese armies had clashed recently along the Pangong lake in Ladakh when the People's Liberation Army of China tried to penetrate into the Indian side.

## About the lake

- In the Ladakhi language, Pangong means extensive concavity and Tso is a lake in Tibetan.



- Pangong Tso is a **long narrow, deep, endorheic (landlocked) lake** situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft **in the Ladakh Himalayas**.
- During winter the lake freezes completely, despite being **saline water**.
- It is **not a part of the Indus river basin area**.
- 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.
- 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.
- The brackish water lake **freezes over in winter** and becomes ideal for ice skating and polo.
- The legendary **19th century Dogra general Zorawar Singh is said to have trained his soldiers and horses on the frozen Pangong lake before invading Tibet**.
- An **Inner Line Permit is required to visit the lake** as it lies on the Sino-Indian Line of Actual Control.