

21-05-2022

Pangong Lake

Why In Newspapers?

India is closely monitoring the construction of a bridge by China over Pangong Tso (lake) in eastern Ladakh.

Quick Issue?

- There is a PLA garrison on the north bank, at the Kurnak fortress, and at Moldo on the south bank, and the distance between the two is about 200 km.
- The new bridge between the nearest points on the two banks, which is about 500 meters, will reduce the movement time between the two sectors from about 12 hours to three or four hours.
- This will significantly reduce the time taken for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to move troops and equipment between the two regions.
- This bridge is located about 25 km ahead of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Historical Background?

- Pangong Tso literally means "Conclave Lake". Pangong means conclave in Ladakhi and tso means lake in Tibetan.
- Situated at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet, this lake is about 135 km long.
- It is formed by Tethys geosyncline.
- The Karakoram mountain range, which crosses Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and India, ends on the northern bank of Pangong Tso, including the world's second highest peak K2, with an elevation of over 6,000 m.

Other Key Facts?

- Why does China want to occupy the areas along Pangong Tso?
- Pangong Tso is strategically important as it is very close to the Chusul Valley, which was one of the battlegrounds between India and China during the 1962 war.
- China appears to be restricting India in the region by taking strategic advantage of overlooking the Chusul Valley, which it can do if it moves along the Pangong Tso.
- China also does not want India to promote its infrastructure anywhere near the LAC. China fears this threatens its occupation of Aksai Chin and the Lhasa-Kashgar highway.
- Any threat to this highway puts imperialist plans into Pakistan-occupied territories in Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, and beyond in Pakistan, rather than China.



- It also has high broken mountains on its southern bank which are inclined towards the Spangur Lake in the south.
- The Line of Actual Control (LAC) - the line that separates Indian and Chinese troops since 1962 - generally runs along the land except across the width of Pangong Tso. Here it passes through water.
- Both sides have marked their respective territories by declaring which side belongs to which country.
- India controls Pangong Tso and a part of about 45 km of China.
- The lake contains mountains of the Chang Chenmo Range, which are sloping downwards, called fingers.
- Eight of them are in contention here. India and China have different understanding of where the LAC passes.
- India has said that the LAC passes through Finger 8, which has been the site of China's last military post.
- India is patrolling the area - mostly on foot - up to Finger 8 due to the nature of the terrain. But the Indian Army does not have active control beyond Finger 4.
- On the other hand, China says that the LAC passes through Finger 2. It is patrolling up to Finger 4, mostly in light vehicles, and sometimes up to Finger 2.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que: Consider the following statements:

1. Pangong Tso is formed from the Tethys Geosyncline.
2. The Karakoram mountain range ends on the northern bank of Pangong Tso.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| A. 1 only | B. 2 only |
| C. Both | D. None |

Ans (C) Both



Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary

Why In Newspapers?

Recently Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan was notified as the 52nd tiger reserve of India.

Quick Issue?

- In April 2020 the Rajasthan government had sent a proposal to develop Ramgarh Poisonous Sanctuary for tigers.
- In July 2021, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) gave in-principle approval to make Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary and surrounding areas a tiger reserve.

Historical Background?

- Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over an area of about 252 square kilometres. It has been declared a sanctuary in 1982 under the Rajasthan Wildlife and Bird Protection Act, 1951.
- Indian wolf, leopard, sloth bear, golden jackal, fox etc. can be seen in this tiger reserve.
- There are four tiger reserves in Rajasthan. Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary is the fourth Tiger Reserve. The other three tiger reserves are Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur district, Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Kota district and Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar district.
- The Ramgarh Poisonous Sanctuary plays an important role in the movement of tigers. It will connect Ranthambore Tiger Reserve with Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, thus making it an important tiger corridor.
- It will act as a buffer for Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and will facilitate the dispersal of tigers. Thus it prevents the problem of congestion in Ranthambore.
- Eco tourism will get a boost due to the presence of sites within the Tiger Reserve like Bhimlat, and Ramgarh Mahal. This will also provide livelihood opportunities to the local people.
- Tiger Corridor It is a stretch of land connecting tiger habitats, providing a route for movement of tigers and other wildlife.
- There are more than 30 major tiger corridors and many smaller tiger corridors in India.

Other Key Facts?

- What is the importance of Tiger Corridor?
- Due to the corridors, tigers will get more space and there will be less human-wildlife conflicts. They also serve as a habitat for other wildlife like wolves, hyenas, birds, reptiles, etc.



Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que: Which wildlife sanctuary is known as the refuge of Python?

- A. Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- B. Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Ramgarh Poisonous Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Ans (C) Ramgarh Poisonous Wildlife Sanctuary

Que: Match List-1 with List-2 and select the correct answer using the code given below?

List-1 (Wildlife Sanctuary)

- 1. Ramgarh Vishdhari
- 2. Jawahar Sagar
- 3. Tal Chhapar
- 4. Van Vihar

List-2 (District)

- A. churu
- B. Dholpur
- C. Bundi
- D. quota

Code – 1, 2, 3, 4

(A) c, d, b, a

(C) c, d, a, b

(B) a, b, s, d

(D). d, c, b, a

Ans (C) C, D, A, B

