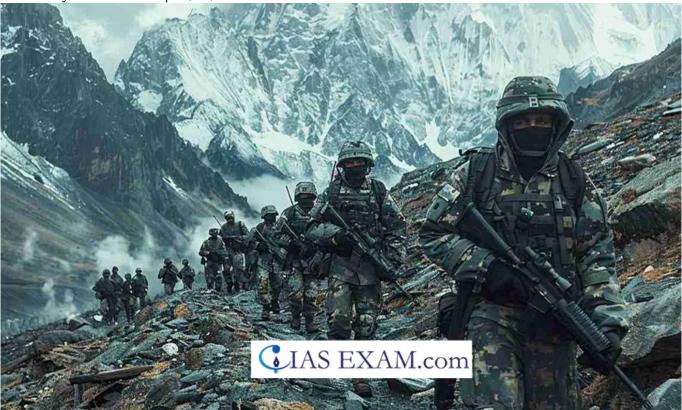
# New Army division with a focus on eastern Ladakh

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#### **Context**

A new Army division will be created this year for possible deployment of troops to eastern Ladakh.

#### **About**

- Creation of 72 Division
  - The Army is thinking about elevating the 72 Division for viable deployment in eastern Ladakh under the Northern Command.
  - The 72 Division was to at the beginning function under the 17 Mountain Strike
    Corps (MSC) based in Panagarh (West Bengal).
  - A department has about 14,000 to 15,000 troops.

# Restructuring of Army corps in the backdrop of the army standoff with China

- Currently, the Army has 4 strike corps the Mathura-based 1 Corp, Ambala-based 2 Corps, Bhopal-based 21 Corps, and 17 MSC in Panagarh.
  - However, till 2021, only the 17 MSC was focused on China. The other 3 were

focussed on Pakistan.

- But in the backdrop of the army standoff with China which started in 2020, a restructuring became completed in 2021 to keep of the strike corps for the mountains facing China.
- The 1 Corps and 17 Corps had been restructured to focus on the northern and eastern borders to tackle Chinese threats.

#### **Role of the 1 Corps and 17 Corps**

- The function of the 1 Corps was reoriented to awareness at the northern borders with China with two infantry divisions.
- The 17 Corps was given a further division from a present corps to recognition at the eastern theater.
- Some factors of the 17 Corps have been deployed in eastern Ladakh in the backdrop of the military standoff with China.

## Part of two-pronged strategy

- This choice is a part of normal redeployment changes being deliberate in the Northern Command, with a -pronged method targeted on:
  - eastern Ladakh amid the standoff along the <u>LAC with China</u>, and
  - on ensuring no gap in training of strike corps elements.

#### Situation around LAC after Galwan incident

- India and China drove in almost 50,000-60,000 troops each alongside the <u>Line of Actual Control (LAC)</u> following the lethal clashes in the Galwan Valley in June 2020.
- Friction points along with Galwan Valley, north and south banks of <u>Pangong Tso</u> and the Gogra-Hot Springs area have visible some resolution inside the remaining three years with the creation of buffer zones.
- Legacy friction points such as Depsang Plains and Demchok are yet to see any disengagement.

## **Operation Meghdoot**

- Operation Meghdoot was the code call for an military operation carried out by the Indian Armed Forces on thirteen April 1984.
- Its objective was to secure and control over the strategically vital Siachen Glacier in the jap Karakoram Range of the Himalayas, situated in Kashmir.
- The operation involved Indian troops airlifting to key positions along the glacier and organising military posts to prevent Pakistan from gaining control over the area.
- On April 13, 1984, a fleet of Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters flew an Indian Army platoon, one soldier at a time, to the Bilafondla Pass on the Saltoro Ridge, towering over the Siachen Glacier at an altitude of 5,450 metres (17,880 toes).
- Simultaneously, a platoon of Ladakh Scouts was airlifted to Sia La, in the northern glacier, at an altitude of 5,589 metres (18,336 feet).
- Soon, about 300-abnormal Indian troops had been positioned on the strategically

important peaks and passes of the Saltoro Ridge.

- The operation changed into successful in reaching its objectives, and India has for the reason that maintained a navy presence inside the Siachen Glacier location.
- This is seen as India's ambitious army response to what New Delhi calls Pakistan's aggression in the uncharted territory of Ladakh, north of map reference NJ9842.
- Both New Delhi and Islamabad had agreed that the **Line of Control (LoC)** stopped at factor NJ9842 on the map.
- Beyond this was an unchartered territory and Pakistan wanted to occupy this region to benefit strategic gain which was thwarted through India.

**Source: The Indian Express** 

#### **UPSC Prelims Practice Question**

- Q.Siachen Glacier is situated to the (2020)
- (a) East of Aksai Chin
- (b) East of Leh
- (c) North of Gilgit
- (d) North of Nubra Valley

**Ans:** (d)