

INDIA WANTS TOTAL DISENGAGEMENT

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The remaining points of tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh should be resolved “quickly”, said an official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday. Addressing the weekly press briefing, official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said “prolongation” of differences in the remaining points of friction was not helpful for restoration of peace and tranquillity along the LAC.

“There is a consensus that the two sides should now quickly resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh,” said Mr. Bagchi, highlighting the positive outcome from the 10 rounds of Senior Commanders-level talks which helped in achieving “disengagement” in the Pangong Tso area. The official indicated that despite negotiations, similar disengagement is yet to be achieved at the remaining friction points.

“At both the senior commanders’ meeting and the WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination), the two sides had detailed exchange of views on the remaining issues. The two sides continue to remain in touch through military and diplomatic channels,” said Mr. Bagchi, emphasising the need to resolve the issues.

Following months of tension on the LAC, Indian and Chinese Senior Commanders had managed to disengage on the north and south banks of the Pangong Tso. However, the Chinese forces are yet to disengage from Gogra, Hot Springs, Depsang and Demchok. “We therefore hope that the Chinese side will work with us to ensure that disengagement in the remaining areas is completed at the earliest. This would allow both sides to consider de-escalation of forces in eastern Ladakh as that alone will lead to the restoration of peace and tranquillity and provide conditions for progress of our bilateral relationship,” said the official spokesperson.

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