

FROM PAGE ONE

Doval-Wang hold key talks ahead of Xi's India visit

Modi and President Xi Jinping to improve bilateral relations.

"I am very happy we are here for the 25th round of talks which are very important, particularly in the wake of the BRICS summit to happen shortly," Doval said in his opening remarks.

President Xi is widely expected to attend the BRICS summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi on Sept 12-13. Though China has not yet confirmed his participation in the summit, officials on both sides are optimistic about Xi's visit to India.

His visit would provide an opportunity for a meeting with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the summit to discuss initiatives to take forward bilateral ties.

"We meet in keeping with the guidance of our leaders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping, who have given clear and positive direction to our relationship both at Kazan and Tianjin," Doval said, referring to the leaders' summits on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Russia in 2024 and the SCO summit in China last year.

Referring to the progress made by the two countries in normalising the ties and the four-year standoff at eastern Ladakh, Doval said he was happy that over the past year the bilateral relationship has been steadily returning to normalcy.

"The normalcy we have witnessed in our relationship has been a direct result of both sides maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas," he said.

"We have extensively talked about it today just to see how to effectively reinforce and further consolidate our efforts to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas," he said in an apparent reference to differences over the border and Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as South Tibet.

Doval also talked about advances made by the two countries in improving people-to-people ties.

"The successful conduct of Kailash Manasarovar Yatra via Nathu La and resumption of our traditional border trade via all the three passes brought tangible benefits for our people, particularly people living in the border areas," he said.

In his remarks, Wang said the China-India relationship has gone beyond the bilateral scope and taken on global and strategic significance.

"It is important for us to step up communication, to enhance mutual trust, to remove disturbances and overcome obstacles. We need to be good friends that enjoy good neighbourliness and be good partners that contribute to each other's success," he said.

Wang also talked about adding new impetus to the ties during the talks with Doval.

"I look forward to continuing to have in-depth exchange of views with you on issues of shared interest to better understand each other and to properly handle the boundary question, to not only maintain peace and tranquillity in the border area but also inject new impetus for the bilateral relationship," he said.

Wang also said the two sides have stayed in regular communication through diplomatic and military channels on boundary affairs, implementing the guidance of PM Modi and President Xi.

Prior to the talks, Doval, who arrived here on a two-day visit on Monday, called on Chinese Vice President Han Zhang.

The two leaders discussed ways to strengthen peace and tranquility in the border areas and further improve bilateral ties across economic, political and multilateral fora, in accordance with the consensus reached between the leaders of the two countries, the Indian Embassy said in a post on X.

In August last year, China and India successfully held the 24th round of talks, during which the two sides had candid and in-depth exchanges of views on the boundary question and reached a number of common understandings, he said.

SC to set up special bench to hear Centre's plea

terion for creamy-layer exclusion.

The status and category of the parent's post, along with the prescribed income/wealth test, were to be considered in accordance with the 1993 office memorandum.

The government, while stating that it is bound by the Supreme Court's ruling, has said that applying the judgment mechanically to CSE-2025 could result in unequal treatment of candidates who were similarly placed but acted differently based on the legal position prevailing when the examination was conducted.

According to the application, the CSE-2025 notification was issued on January 22, 2025, the preliminary examination was held on May 25, 2025, and the main examination was conducted from August 22 to 31.

The UPSC declared the final result on March 6, 2026, recommending 958 candidates for appointment to the IAS, IFS, IPS and other central services.

The top court delivered the Rohith Nathan judgement just five days later, on March 11.

The Centre has pointed out that candidates whose parents were employed in PSUs or the private sector and whose income exceeded the prescribed ceiling could, under the interpretation prevailing at the time, have considered themselves ineligible for OBC (non-creamy layer) benefits.

Some such candidates, the application says, may consequently have contested CSE-2025 only in the general category, while others may not have applied under the OBC category at all.

They may also have foregone benefits such as the three-year upper age relaxation and additional attempts available to OBC (non-creamy layer) candidates.

The government said that candidates who had applied under the OBC category but were subsequently found ineligible could potentially benefit from a fresh assessment in light of the March 11 judgement.

However, those who never applied as OBC candidates would have no corresponding opportunity to change their category or retrospectively claim age relaxation or additional attempts.

Invoking the doctrine of prospective overruling, the Centre has urged the top court to consider the fact that the CSE-2025 selection process had already concluded before the March 11 judgement and that candidates had acted on the legal and administrative position prevailing at the time.

The government, in its plea, clarified that its application is not intended to dilute or circumvent the Supreme Court's judgement but seeks directions on its implementation in the specific context of CSE-2025.

The Centre has sought permission to proceed with finalising service allocation of the UPSC-recommended CSE-2025 candidates on the basis of the OBC creamy-layer determination applied before March 11, 2026.

LG, CM extend Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi greetings

remain an eternal beacon of peace, equality, and compassion for all humankind. On this sacred day, let us pledge to live by his values of love, kindness, and universal brotherhood and work together to foster a more harmonious, inclusive and united society," he added.

In his message, the CM said,"The life and teachings of holy Prophet offer a timeless beacon of peace, compassion, equality, tolerance and brotherhood for humanity."

He called upon people to imbibe these values in their

daily lives and work towards building a more harmonious, inclusive and compassionate society.

"Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) reminds us of the timeless message of the Prophet, rooted in kindness, tolerance and service to humanity. Let us dedicate ourselves to following this noble path and promote unity, brotherhood and mutual respect across all sections of society," Abdullah said.

He also prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu &Kashmir, expressing hope that the auspicious occasion would further strengthen communal harmony, mutual understanding and a shared spirit of service across the region.

Labourer killed as bridge pier collapses

about 10.10 am while the workers were engaged in laying the pier of the under-construction bridge.

The concrete structure collapsed suddenly, resulting in on-the-spot death of 25-year-old labourer Gautam Sahu of Bihar.

The other labourer suffered head injuries and was evacuated to hospital, where he was undergoing treatment, officials said.

Jaishankar-Lavrov talks focus on bilateral ties, global issues

operation, regional hotspots, global challenges and multilateral issues," Jaishankar said in a poston X.

The EAM arrived in Moscow on Sunday for a two-day visit, which comes ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's expected visit to New Delhi for the BRICS leaders' summit on September 12-13.

"Talks between the two top diplomats focused on the current issues on the international agenda. In particular, they coordinated approaches to the situation in Afghanistan, around Iran, and Ukraine. The two sides reiterated mutual commitment to continuing close coordination within the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, BRICS, and the Group of Twenty," a report said.

"The ministers agreed to strengthen trust-based dialogue at all levels."

The talks assume significance as India and Russia seek to expand economic engagement and deepen cooperation across several sectors.

On Monday, Jaishankar met Russian President Vladimir Putin, with discussions focusing on strengthening economics ties in areas including trade, energy, fertilisers and nuclear cooperation.

Jaishankar also co-chaired a meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) with Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.

JMC seals 46 shops at Indira Chowk

quently approached a senior JMC functionary and assured him that they would pay the rent regularly for the allotted shops, following which the sealing was lifted, officials said.

The 46 allottees of the open spaces at Indira Chowk had not been paying rent for more than four years. Due to the non-payment of rent, sealing action was carried out, the officials added.

Later, a delegation of affected shopowners submitted a written request, offering to clear the rent dues and pay some amount in advance.

After considering their request, the corporation decided to lift the sealing, subject to the payment of the outstanding rent and compliance with the agreed terms, officials said.

DGP reviews security ahead of upcoming festivals

agement, surveillance, traffic regulation and emergency response mechanisms.

The meeting was attended by the Special DGP Coordination, J&K, IGP Kashmir Zone, IGP Jammu Zone, all range DIGs and district SSPs/PDs of J&K, along with SSP PCR Kashmir, AIG (Ct & Int) PHQ and other senior police officers.

During the meeting, the DGP reviewed the preparedness of field formations and directed officers to ensure heightened vigilance, proactive policing and foolproof security arrangements well ahead of the scheduled events.

Special emphasis was laid on security arrangements at major shrines, mosques and other religious places, particularly Dargah Hazratbal and other religious sites, where large congregations and nightlong prayers were expected.

The DGP directed officers to ensure adequate security coverage, effective surveillance and close coordination among all field formations so that any emerging situation is identified and addressed promptly.

He stressed the need to strengthen surveillance at sensitive and vulnerable locations, while ensuring effective deployment of personnel at strategic points and high-footfall areas.

He also directed officers to formulate and implement comprehensive traffic regulation and route management plans around major religious places and along procession routes to facilitate the smooth and safe movement of devotees and the general public.

Security and traffic arrangements for Raksha Bandhan were also reviewed. Officers were directed to make advance arrangements at markets, temples and other prominent religious places, besides enhancing surveillance and security deployment in areas expected to witness increased public movement.

The DGP emphasised that all field formations must remain alert, coordinated and responsive throughout the events, with adequate contingency arrangements in place to deal with any unforeseen situation.

The meeting concluded with the DGP reiterating that all necessary security, traffic and crowd-management arrangements must be completed well in advance to ensure the peaceful, safe and secure conduct of upcoming festivals.

IPS officer posted to AGMUT cadre

Joint AGMUT Cadre until further orders.

The officer had reported to the cadre on August 24, 2026. The period between his reporting to the cadre and the issuance of the posting order has been treated as "awaiting posting."

The order stated that the decision was issued with the approval of the competent authority.

PM invites citizens to share their UPI experiences

of.

The UPI was launched on August 25, 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) under the regulatory oversight of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The UPI has emerged as the backbone of India's digital payments ecosystem and a critical driver of financial inclusion.

"A decade ago, UPI was rolled out, marking a major turning point in India's digital payments journey. The sheer scale and reach of UPI are something every Indian must be proud of," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister also asked people to share with him their UPI experience and how it impacted the life.

Over a decade of operations, the UPI has demonstrated extraordinary scale and momentum in the country. Annual transaction volume expanded from just 1.78 crore in 2016-

17 to over 24,162 crore transactions in 2025-26, representing an almost 13,000-fold surge in transaction volume.

Parallely, transaction value rose sharply from Rs 0.07 lakh crore in 2016-17 to approximately Rs 314 lakh crore in 2025-26, translating into a more than 4,000-fold increase in transaction value.

The UPI has emerged as one of the most successful pillars of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), providing an interoperable, real-time payments platform that enables seamless peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant transactions through a single application, an official release said on Monday.

SIA re-opens probe into 1998 massacre of 23 KPs at Ganderbal

sacre was carried out by terrorists linked with the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit.

"The reopening of the investigation is part of an effort to re-examine terror cases that have remained unresolved, and to bring perpetrators to justice," officials said.

Besides the Wandhama massacre, the SIA has also re-launched probe into the 1989 killings of Tika Lal Taploo and Justice Neelkanth Ganjoo.

Taploo, a prominent lawyer and J&K BJP vice-president, was shot dead near his residence in Srinagar in September 1989.

Justice Ganjoo, who had sentenced Jammu &Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) founder Maqbool Bhat to death, was shot dead by terrorists in Hari Singh Street here in Srinagar on November 4, 1989.

Officials said investigation had been reopened in these two cases, and SIA had recently conducted raids at several places across Jammu and Kashmir as part of the probe.

Recently, the agency concluded its investigation into the killing of Kashmiri Pandit nurse Sarla Bhatt by terrorists. The SIA filed a 737-page chargesheet naming banned JKLF chief Yasin Malik as key accused in the kidnapping and murder of the nurse in April 1990.

The SIA, which reopened the case in 2024, submitted the chargesheet before the designated National Investigation Agency (NIA) court here, 36 years after Bhat -- a nurse at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura -- was found dead in downtown Srinagar, a day after she went missing.

Earlier this month, the SIA carried out raids at multiple locations across the Union territory in connection with a 1990 double murder case of a Kashmiri Pandit writer and social worker Sarwanand Koul Premi and his son, Virender Koul, who hailed from Soaf Shali in Kokernag area of Anantnag, officials said.

Canada hits back at US with retaliatory tariffs

"far WORSE" than existing tariffs and threatening new 50 per cent tariffs on Canadian vehicles, auto parts and steel.

Trump added another provocation on Tuesday, saying the United States was giving "serious consideration" to re-naming Lake Ontario as "Lake America" in a feud with Ontario Premier Doug Ford. Such a change would be reminiscent of the Republican president's unilateral action last year by executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America.

The tariffs will take effect on September 8 at rates of 15 per cent, 25 per cent and 50 per cent, with Canada matching the corresponding US tariff rates on more than 700 products such as pulp and paper and electronics. Newspapers

The tariffs on many American products would double from 25 per cent to 50 per cent, with the largest share of the new measures affecting steel and aluminium.

Canadian officials said the goal was not to raise revenue but to protect Canadian companies and reduce US imports.

US steel imports, for example, have already fallen 30 per cent since Canada imposed a 25 per cent tariff, and the new 50 per cent rate is expected to cut them further, Canadian officials said.

Goods facing 50 per cent tariffs include some steel and aluminium products, furniture and clothing. Appliances, dairy products including cheese, fish and seafood, and certain steel and aluminium derivatives will face 25 per cent tariffs. Existing Canadian counter-tariffs on US autos will remain in place.

Michael Howard II, owner of a furniture business in Warren, Michigan, outside Detroit, said the tariffs will hamper the "ability for us to put food on the table for our family" and affect "the ability for us to give back to our community".

Howard and his wife started their business a decade ago. They make and sell everything from dining room tables to bookcases.

"To say that we don't need Canada is just disingenuous," he said. "It's dishonest. And it's just absolutely not truthful. We need our neighbour, but also they need us."

Carney said on Monday that Canada may need to move away from matching US tariffs dollar for dollar and instead use more targeted retaliation aimed at protecting Canadian workers and businesses.

8 OGWs of terrorists arrested

Manzoor, were taken into custody in the area, officials said.

Security forces also arrested three OGWs from Shopian district late on Monday night.

Officials said three motorcycle-borne OGWs were taken into custody after their search led to recovery of two hand grenades and some incriminating material linked to Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit.

The arrested OGWs were identified as Junaid Ahmad Dar, Amir Yousuf and Junaid Muzaffar.

In another operation, security forces arrested two OGWs of terrorists - Latif Ahmad Deedad and Aejez Ahmad Bajad - in a forest area of Pulwama district.

Trump declares Strait of Hormuz cleared of all mines

portion of oil and liquefied natural gas exported from the Gulf region normally passes through the waterway. Any prolonged disruption to navigation therefore has consequences extending well beyond the immediate US-Iran confrontation, affecting international energy supplies, tanker movements, shipping insurance, freight costs and global oil prices.

The latest announcement must be viewed against the background of the continuing military and political confrontation between the United States and Iran. During the conflict, the Strait became a central point of contention. The United States has sought to maintain maritime access and protect commercial shipping, while Iran has used control over the waterway as a major source of strategic leverage.

The presence or suspected presence of naval mines has been particularly significant because mines can threaten commercial vessels without requiring a large conventional military force to maintain the danger. Even when no mine has actually detonated, uncertainty over their location can cause ship operators to avoid an area or substantially reduce the number of vessels willing to transit it.

Naval mines are especially difficult to deal with because they can remain concealed beneath or on the surface of the water and can be designed to activate when exposed to particular conditions or when a vessel passes nearby.

Mine clearance consequently requires specialised naval forces, surveillance, detection equipment and controlled detonations. Clearing a major shipping route does not simply involve locating visible explosives. Forces conducting mine-countermeasure operations must establish sufficiently high confidence that the navigational channels have been searched and that identified mines have either been removed or safely destroyed. The process can, therefore, take considerable time and may have to be repeated when intelligence indicates that additional mines could have been deployed.

There is also a distinction between the United States declaring that the Strait is open and shipping companies actually treating it as a normal commercial route. Commercial operators make decisions on the basis of risk assessments, insurance requirements, government warnings, crew safety and the likelihood of interruption. Even if U.S. naval forces have cleared known mines, shipping companies may remain cautious until there is sustained evidence that vessels can transit without being attacked, detained or subjected to new restrictions.

If the US Navy's assessment is accurate and all known mines in international waters have been removed or detonated, one of the most immediate physical threats to maritime navigation has been substantially reduced.

The announcement also demonstrates the United States' intention to maintain a strong military presence and to prevent Iran from re-establishing a mine threat.

Yadav highlights India's best practices for drought resilience

ing and satellite-based drought assessments, and how a risk-informed approach rests on the premise that land sustains water.

He also highlighted the rejuvenation of traditional water bodies as an important tool for strengthening groundwater recharge and rural resilience. In India's mountainous regions, community-led restoration of springs and recharge zones is helping secure water for drinking and irrigation, he underlined.

In the plains, Union Minister Yadav pointed to India's watershed development programmes, which address degraded rain-fed landscapes through a ridge-to-valley approach. These initiatives, he said, are driven by community institutions and strengthened through convergence with rural employment programmes.

"At the household level, drinking water programs ensure reliable supply even under stress with assured service levels, local quality testing and prioritization of vulnerable areas," he added.

He highlighted how India's core belief is that drought must be managed as a predictable, preventable risk and not a recurring disaster demanding emergency response.

"Prevention rests on watershed development, water harvesting, up-forestation, recharge and climate-resilient crops, disaster-related funds, employment guarantees, fodder support and emergency water supply provide relief when required," he said at the dialogue.

He also highlighted the role of crop insurance in protecting farmers from drought and other non-preventable losses across the crop cycle. Technology-driven assessment, combined with subsidised insurance premiums, can help make claims faster and more transparent, he said.

"A crop insurance scheme that financially protects farmers against drought and other non-preventable losses across the crop cycle, combining subsidized premises with technology-driven assessment, ensures faster, transparent claim statement. Building drought resilience is not optional for the world's most vulnerable; it is survival," he underlined.

In his remarks, he reiterated that India stands ready to share its knowledge and capacities including on early warning for a broad resilient future for all.

On Monday too, at the 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Ulaanbaatar, India made a strong pitch for diversified, adequate, and predictable international finance for land restoration and drought resilience, even as global stakeholders announced a USD 1.3 billion financial package centred on restoring the world's critical rangelands.

Govt authorises additional 25 pc funds for salaries

authorised funds were aimed at covering critical salary and related operational requirements, including regular salaries, wages, honorariums, pensions, stipends, scholarships, diet expenses, and leave encashment, subject to the conditions laid out in the government's earlier April 2026 guidelines.

However, the utilisation of funds by the departments shall be subject to the detailed conditions as stipulated vide government Order No149-F of April 1, 2026, says the order.

Kavinder constitutes Inter-University Viksit Bharat Council

ment of Himachal Pradesh and the nation.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is moving forward with the resolve of Viksit Bharat@2047. The vision of Viksit Bharat is not confined to economic progress only; it is also about building an India that leads the world in knowledge, innovation, skills, self-reliance, social harmony and human values," he said while addressing a meeting of vice-chancellors of universities at Lok Bhavan here.

Emphasising the role of youth, the governor called for their greater participation in the activities of the Council/Task Force. He said that universities should also collaborate with higher educational institutions in neighbouring states to learn from and adopt successful practices.

He said the Council/Task Force would hold quarterly meetings, with meetings organised on a rotational basis among universities, and stressed that the mechanism should remain action-oriented and be regularly reviewed.

The governor also nominated Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, as the coordinating university for the Task Force, with the responsibility of facilitating its functioning and inter-university coordination. The initiative seeks to provide a common platform for universities to strengthen collaboration in research, innovation, academic reforms and sharing of best practices, while fostering meaningful coordination among universities, government, industry, experts, students and other stakeholders.

On the occasion, the governor also released the first edition of Lok Bhavan's magazine.

Earlier, governor's secretary Sandeep Bhardwaj welcomed Gupta and vice-chancellors and outlined the agenda of the meeting.

Vice-Chancellors made presentations and shared their views on skill development, employment and entrepreneurship, youth health and well-being, Nasha Mukht Bharat, sports and fitness, youth leadership, innovation and research, national development and inter-university collaboration.

Vice-Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh University Prof. Mahavir Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Dr. Harminder Singh Bawa, Vice-Chancellor of Atal Medical and Research University Dr. D.K. Verma, Vice-Chancellor of Sardar Patel University Dr. Lalit Kumar Awasthi and other senior officers were present on the occasion.