

India, China do not pose 'threats' to each other: Xi Jinping tells PM Modi

Agency
Beijing June 14,

Chinese President Xi Jinping told Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday that India and China "do not pose threats" to each other as he expressed Beijing's willingness to join New Delhi in pushing forward a closer development partnership between the two sides.

President Xi made the remarks during his meeting with Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek - their first interaction after Modi's re-election following the stunning victory of the BJP in the general elections last month.

In a statement, the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing said that President Xi told Prime Minister Modi that India and China should deepen cooperation by properly handling differences and called for strengthening Confidence Building Measures to maintain stability at the border.

"China is ready to work with India to continuously advance the closer development partnership between the two countries," Xi said.

He urged the two sides to stick to the fundamental judgement that "China and India offer to each other



chances for development, and do not pose each other threats," state-run Xinhua news agency reported, citing the statement.

Xi called on the two countries to keep deepening mutual trust, focusing on cooperation, and properly handling their disputes so as to turn the bilateral relationship into a positive element for their respective development.

He pointed out that China and India are the only two emerging markets with a population of one billion in the world, both of which are at an important stage of rapid development.

Working together, China and India will not only boost each other's development, but also contribute to peace, stability and prosperity of Asia and

the world at large, he said. Xi said both the countries should deepen mutual trust, focus on cooperation and properly handle differences, so as to make China-India relations a more positive asset and energy for the development of the two countries, the statement said. On the vexed boundary issue, Xi said, "we need to make good use of the meeting of the Special Representatives on the boundary issue and other mechanisms, strengthen Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) and maintain stability at the border areas".

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi are the designated Special Representatives of the boundary dispute.

So far, the two countries have held 21 rounds of talks to resolve differences over the 3488-km long Line Actual Control (LAC).

"We need to expand cooperation channels, carry out cooperation in investment, production capacity and tourism, expand common interests, and jointly promote regional connectivity, including the development of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM) so as to achieve better cooperation and common development," he said.

The mention of BCIM, which is part of China's multibillion dollar Belt and Road Initiative is regarded significant as it has not yet taken off unlike the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other corridors of the initiative.

Cyclone Vayu spares Gujarat coast after changing its course

Agency
New Delhi June 14,

Cyclone Vayu has spared Gujarat after changing its course towards northwest but the threat of furious wind, dust storm and rainfall still continues.

Weather Scientist Manorama Mohanty said in Ahmedabad that high on the cyclonic storm will remain in force for next 12 hours despite the storm changing its direction away from Saurashtra coast.

Widespread rainfall recorded in coastal districts of Saurashtra last night which is expected to continue even today.

Bhavnagar, Amreli, Junagadh, Gir Somnath, Dwarka witnessed heavy rainfall yesterday. According to official figures, 12 talukas in the state received rainfall more than 25mm. CM Vijay Rupani said the administration would continue to be on high for next 24 hours. The power supply has been

disrupted in nearly 560 villages of the state due to the cyclone.

The state government has been able to repair 870 power feeder lines out of the total 1000 affected due to the cyclone in Saurashtra region. Keshod and Kandla airports resumed operations from yesterday mid-night, while services from Diu, Porbandar and Bhavnagar are resuming from today morning. Schools in coastal districts of Saurashtra and Kutch will remain closed today.

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank stresses on creation of at least two Sanskrit speaking villages

Agency
New Delhi June 14,

Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has stressed on creation of at least two Sanskrit speaking villages near the Sanskrit Institutions in the country. He said, more highly qualified Sanskrit teachers, professors should be engaged to give new dimensions to the

language both at National and International level to promote the Sanskrit language.

Chairing meeting with heads of Central Language Institutions under his Ministry in New Delhi yesterday, he said the focus of his ministry is to promote all Indian languages for which all vacancies need to be filled. The Minister directed the officials of the

Ministry to meet the heads of these institutions on a regular basis.

The Minister urged to discover innovative ways to promote these languages. He added there is a strong need to do research in Indian languages. The Minister added that the literature in each Indian language must be translated into other languages so that all can avail the best of literature.

PM Kisan Pension Scheme: Farmers' contribution to be Rs 100 per month

Agency
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Farmers will have to contribute 100 rupees per month under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana that seeks to provide a minimum fixed monthly pension of 3,000 rupees on the attainment of 60 years.

The central government will also contribute an equal amount to the pension fund to be managed by the LIC, which will be responsible for the pension payout. The government in its first cabinet meeting had approved a separate pension scheme for farmers with an aim to cover 5 crore beneficiaries in the first three years.

Discussing the new scheme with state agriculture ministers through a video conference, Union Agriculture Minister

Narendra Singh Tomar urged all states and union territories to roll out the programme at the earliest.

He urged the states to start enrolling farmers in the age group of 18-40 years besides taking measures to create

awareness about the scheme. He urged all states and UTs to expedite farmers' enrolment process so they get the benefit under PM-Kisan and requested them to create awareness of the Pension scheme for farmers.

PM Modi emphasises on sharing India's expertise in health care and telemedicine with member SCO

Agency
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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised on sharing India's expertise in health care and telemedicine with member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Addressing the plenary session of the SCO summit Mr Modi said, along with physical connectivity people to contact is also important among member countries. Mr Modi presented his vision for regional cooperation and development. The two-day SCO Summit began yesterday in Bishkek.

After Anantnag terror attack, CRPF may change J&K deployment drill

Agency
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The terror attack on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) contingent that killed five security personnel in Anantnag on June 12 appeared to have been carried out by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed, people aware of the investigations said on Thursday, adding that the deployment process of the force could undergo a major change to bolster the security apparatus in Jammu & Kashmir.

Motorcycle-borne militants gunned down five CRPF troopers on one of the busiest roads in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Wednesday in the first major terrorist strike since the killing of 40 soldiers by a suicide bomber in Pulwama on February 14.

Shortly after the attack on Wednesday, an obscure group named Al-Umar Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack. "The group is largely defunct without any following," a senior home ministry official said on condition of anonymity. "Al-Umer Mujahideen claiming responsibility for the attack as against the JeM gives Pakistan deniability," he added.

Another official of the home ministry said the CRPF soldiers killed in the daylight attack were an "easy target" for a terrorist strike. "CRPF soldiers were positioned in the open... this may change," the official said, asking not to be named. "They can be placed inside a police station or a fortified area and called in when required," he added, indicating a new approach to how to the force will be used.

In Jammu & Kashmir, the CRPF is involved in counterterrorism operations and assists in road-opening operations.

The force also assists the local administration in maintaining law and order in the militancy-hit region. Keeping CRPF troopers away from the public eye, especially when deployed to assist the local police, will likely decrease their vulnerability to such attacks.

"At the same time, since they are positioned nearby, they can respond when required," the second home ministry official said. The director general of CRPF, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, briefed Union home secretary Rajiv Gauba about the first major strike on security forces since the Pulwama suicide attack, which occurred on a highway roughly 35km from the spot where Wednesday's firing took place. The two officials also discussed the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. This is not the first time the government has considered changing the standard operating procedure in the recent past after a terror strike. Following the Pulwama attack, which led to an escalation in tensions between India and Pakistan and pushed the two countries to the brink of war, the Centre had allowed airlifting of soldiers, changing the manner in which soldiers were transported to the Valley.

Jammu & Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik said on Thursday that the Anantnag incident was "fidayeen attack" that was carried out at the behest of Pakistan. "Pakistan ordered the fidayeen attack [suicide attack]. Whenever there is

peace in the Valley, Pakistan tries to disrupt it by resorting to such attacks," he said.

Five CRPF troopers, including two assistant sub-inspectors and a militant, were killed in the suicide attack on KP Road in Anantnag. A civilian and three security men, including a station house officer, were injured in the attack.

While the police said on Wednesday that two motorcycle-borne militants drove down KP Road and opened fire at CRPF personnel at 4.50pm, eyewitnesses told investigators on Thursday that only one terrorist carried

out the attack. "The body of the terrorist has not been claimed, indicating the terrorist is a foreign terrorist," a senior J&K government official said, asking not to be named.

One of the five soldiers killed in the attack shot dead the terrorist before losing his life, preliminary evidence collected by investigators has suggested.

In the first six months of this year, security forces killed 111 militants, including some top commanders of terror outfits in different parts of Kashmir. Many of the militants were killed in south Kashmir.

Government reduces ESI contribution rate to 4 per cent

Agency
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The government has reduced the rate of the contribution made by employees and employers under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act from 6.5 per cent to 4 per cent. In a release, the Ministry of Labour and Employment said, the government has taken a historic decision to reduce the rate of contribution under the ESI act. The new rate will be effective from the 1st of next month. It will benefit 3.6 crore employees and 12.85 lakh employers.

The ministry said, the reduced rate of contribution will bring about a substantial relief

to workers and it will facilitate further enrollment of workers under the ESI scheme and bring more and more workforce into the formal sector.

It said, similarly, reduction in the share of contribution of employers will reduce the financial liability of the establishments leading to improved viability of these establishments. It will also lead to enhanced Ease of Doing Business, the statement added.

The ESI Act provides for medical, cash, maternity, disability and dependent benefits to the Insured Persons under the Act. Benefits provided under the ESI Act are funded by the contributions made by the employers and the employees.

A R Conducts Security Meet



IGAR (South)
Imphal June 14,

Chandel Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a security meet at Pallel Company Operating Base. The security forum was attended by the Pradhans, Ward Councilors along with representatives of local youth clubs.

During the meet the locals were sanitised and updated on

current situation existing in the area of responsibility. There was also an interaction

carried out on necessary measures required to be undertaken by locals in synergy with Assam Rifles for maintaining a strict vigil against illicit activities in the area. In addition to the security issues, future action plan in respect of civic action projects like medical camps, recruitment in Assam Rifles and Army, NSDCL and

career counseling for youth were also discussed during the meet.

The locals expressed their gratitude and appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles for conduct of such security meetings and ensuring peace in the area and assured their commitment and assistance in maintaining the same. The security meet concluded with tea and refreshments for all the attendees.