

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1681
ANSWERED ON- 13/03/2025

RESUMPTION OF KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA

1681. SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY
SMT. REKHA SHARMA
DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE
SHRI BRIJ LAL
DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI
SHRI IRANNA KADADI
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the progress made in the recent bilateral discussions between Indian and China, particularly regarding the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage, trans-border river talks and flight connectivity; and
- (b) the steps being taken to ensure continued engagement with China for the management of peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a & b) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping held a meeting on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS Summit at Kazan on 23 October 2024. The two leaders agreed that the Special Representatives on the India-China boundary question will meet at an early date to oversee the management of peace & tranquility in border areas and to explore a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question. The relevant dialogue mechanisms at the level of Foreign Ministers and other officials will also be utilized to stabilize and rebuild bilateral relations.

Following this, the External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar met the Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi on 18 November 2024 in Rio de Janeiro on the sidelines of the G20 Summit. Among the steps discussed were the resumption of Kailash Manasarovar Yatra pilgrimage, data sharing on trans-border rivers, direct flights between India and China, and media exchanges. They also discussed regional and international issues of common interest.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh met Defence Minister of China Admiral Dong Jun in Vientiane, Lao PDR on November 20, 2024 on the sidelines of 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus. Both sides agreed to work together towards a roadmap for rebuilding mutual trust and understanding.

The 23rd Meeting of the Special Representatives (SRs) of India and China was held in Beijing on 18 December 2024. The two SRs underlined the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in

the border areas to promote overall development of the India-China bilateral relationship. India and China continue to address issues related to the boundary through the established bilateral mechanisms.

Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri visited Beijing on 26-27 January for a meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Foreign Minister mechanism between India and China on 27 January. During the visit, the two sides decided to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in the summer of 2025 and it was agreed that the relevant mechanism would discuss the modalities for doing so as per existing agreements. They also agreed to hold an early meeting of the India-China Expert Level Mechanism to discuss resumption of provision of hydrological data and other cooperation pertaining to trans-border rivers. The two sides agreed in principle to resume direct air services between the two countries, and the relevant technical authorities on the two sides would meet and negotiate an updated framework for this purpose.

EAM again met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of G-20 Foreign Ministers Meeting at Johannesburg on 21 February 2025.
