

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Modi reviews situation amid LAC tensions

Rajnath Singh also holds separate meeting with top military officials

27/5/20

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

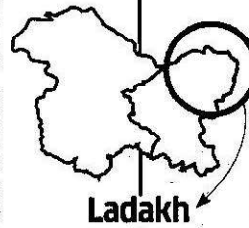
Amid rising border tensions between India and China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reviewed the developments, while Beijing warned New Delhi that the situation might turn more intense than the 2017 Doklam face-off if the Indian Army was not reined in.

India has asked Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) to restore the status quo to defuse tension along the disputed boundary between the two nations in eastern Ladakh. But so far, there has been no headway in de-escalating the situation even though diplomats from both sides are in touch.

On Tuesday, Modi met his National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and Lieutenant Governor of Lada-

Xi tells military to be on guard

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday ordered the military to scale up the battle preparedness, visualising worst-case scenarios and asked them to resolutely defend the country's sovereignty. His comments came in the backdrop of the nearly 20-day standoff between India and China.



Ladakh

ANALYSIS

Beijing stoking trouble

China's military build-up on the north bank of the Pangong Tso Lake along its disputed boundary with India is just one of the many facets of its aggression, which it deliberately ratcheted up at a time when the world is struggling to contain Covid-19. **Details on Page 8**

kh, R K Mathur. He reviewed the situation on the northern bank of the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh, where troop build-up by both the Indian Army and Chinese PLA has continued along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) — the de facto border between the two nations.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also had a separate meeting with top military officials. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and the chiefs of Indian Army, Air Force and Navy — Gen M M Naravane, Air Chief Marshal R K Singh Bhadauria and Admiral Kar-



ambir Singh — were present in the meeting with Defence Minister. Sources told *DH* that both sides were still exploring the possibility of talks between Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councilor Wang Yi over phone to avert further escalation.

Doval and Wang are cur-

rently designated as the Special Representatives of India and China respectively to lead the negotiation to resolve the boundary dispute.

China deployed nearly 5,000 additional troops on its side of the LAC near the lake, but sent smaller units, each comprising nearly 100 to 200 soldiers, across the line into the Indian territory in at least three or four nearby locations. The Indian Army, too, rushed in additional troops as a countermeasure, but none of its soldiers transgressed the LAC to enter the Chinese territory.

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