

# 'India keen to discuss border issue'

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**Ahmedabad:** Ahead of China president Xi Jinping's first visit to India next week, the Indian government on Friday said that it is expected to discuss ways to ease border tensions with Beijing.

"Chinese president's visit will be dawn of a new era in bilateral relations... The BJP-ruled government at the Centre is expected to discuss border disputes with Xi Jinping," said minister of state for external affairs, general (retd) **V K Singh** here on Friday. The former Army chief was in the city to participate in a conference 'India's Foreign Relations - Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean: Strengthening the Political,

Economic, Security and Cultural Prospects', organized at Gujarat National Law University.

Xi is expected to arrive in India on a three-day visit from September 17. Singh, also minister of state for development of north-eastern region, said that India desires to maintain peace at the border and the two neighbours should work at resolving their border disputes. "Just by blindly saying that I am the owner of your shirt, it'll not become mine. Similarly, let our

neighbours keep staking claim to India's land... What is ours, will remain ours. To solve the issue, they (China) need to come to the discussion table," Singh told mediapersons.

India asserts that the border dispute covers nearly 4,057-km long line of actual control, while China claims that it is confined to about 2,000 km to the area of Arunachal Pradesh, which it refers to as Southern Tibet. Last year, tension escalated when Chinese troops crossed over into the Ladakh region.

