

# 'India-China ties moving in positive direction'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 9 April

India and China are moving towards a "positive direction" in their ties and work needs to be done to normalise the relationship, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday.

"I think we are moving in a positive direction," he said.

India-China relations plunged to their lowest

point since the 1962 war following the Galwan Valley clashes. Following a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides withdrew their troops from several friction along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. In October last, the two sides firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

"It's obviously better than the last time I was here. I think the disengagement, particularly the Depsang-Demchok was

important," he said at the *News 18 Rising Bharat Summit*.

In October last, the two sides firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh. Jaishankar suggested that issues on the border remained to some extent because of the force build up over a period of years.

"But there were many other things which also happened during this period some of it was a collateral of the situation; some of it was actually a carry-

over from the Covid era. For example, our direct flights stopped during Covid, they were not resumed," he said. "The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra stopped during Covid. It did not again resume. I think there is work to be done. We are at it," he said.

"We are sort of trying to see whether lot of this post-Covid and parallel to the border tension, the combination of these issues — how much we can progress on this," Jaishankar added.

