

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Ulaanbaatar on his maiden three-day visit to Mongolia, aimed at strengthening India's relation with the strategically important East Asian country that shares its boundaries with China and Russia.

The minister in his pre-departure message said India wants to realise the huge potential of bilateral relations with Mongolia. "Leaving for Ulaanbaatar on a 3 day visit to Mongolia. Looking forward to further India's relations with Mongolia and strengthen security cooperation. Mongolia as an important strategic partner. India wants to realise the huge potential of bilateral relations with Mongolia," Singh said in a tweet.

He will participate in the ground breaking ceremony of an oil refinery at Ulaanbaatar today, a Home Ministry spokesperson said, adding that Singh will also attend a reception hosted by the Mongolian prime minister on the same day. Singh will call upon the Mongolian president on June 23, the spokesperson said.

The Home minister will also visit a Buddhist monastery and hold a meeting with his counterpart and Mongolia's minister for justice and interior affairs on Saturday. He will also visit the headquarters of Mongolia's Border Protection Force there before returning to Delhi on June 24. Singh was to visit Mongolia late last year. However, the visit was postponed after he suffered a hairline fracture.

The home minister's visit is likely to further intensify the bilateral relations in various key areas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in 2015 visited Mongolia, the first ever visit by an Indian prime minister. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was also in Mongolia in April this year where she discussed economic cooperation in infrastructure development, energy, services and information technology with her Mongolian counterpart.