

# Philippines President to visit India from Aug 4-8

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (PTI)

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PRESIDENT of the Philippines, Ferdinand R Marcos Jr., is slated to visit India from August 4 to 8 during which he will meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said.

This is his first visit to the country since assuming the office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, it said.

The forthcoming State visit of President Marcos coincides with the 75th anniversary of India-Philippines diplomatic relations.

The visit is an opportunity for both leaders to “set the path for future bilateral cooperation”, and to engage on regional and international issues of mutual interest, the MEA said. Prime Minister Modi and President Marcos are scheduled to hold bilateral discussions on August 5, it said.

President Marcos will also be meeting President Murmu during his visit.

# Cambodia, Thailand to mull over border issue in Malaysia next week

PHNOM PENH, Aug 1 (IANS)

CAMBODIA has welcomed Thailand's proposal to hold talks on border issues in Malaysia next week, a Cambodian defence ministry spokesperson said on Friday.



“I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that Cambodia welcomes Thailand's

proposal to hold a meeting of the General Border Committee (GBC) in Kuala Lumpur,” Cambodian Defence Ministry's Undersecretary of State and spokesperson Lt. Gen. Maly Socheata said at a press briefing.

“We're very confident that this meeting will be constructive and yield fruitful outcomes,” she said.

According to Socheata, Cambodia's Defence Minister Tea Seiha and Thailand's Deputy Defence Minister Nattaphon Narkphanit will attend the upcoming meeting, Xinhua news agency reported. The office of the spokesperson of Thailand's Ministry of Defence said Thursday on social media that Deputy Minister of Defence Nattaphon Narkphanit had officially responded to “Cambodia's invitation” for a special GBC meeting.

In his reply, Nattaphon welcomed the opportunity to join the meeting and emphasised a shared commitment to reduce tensions and resolve border security issues in a peaceful and constructive manner.

Earlier on July 24, armed clashes broke out between soldiers of Cambodia and Thailand along the disputed border. The two countries agreed on a ceasefire on July 28, taking effect at the midnight of July 28.

# Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan takes charge as 47th Vice Chief of Naval Staff

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (PTI)

VICE Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, a gunnery and missile systems specialist, on Friday assumed charge as the 47th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff. Prior to assuming his new charge, Vice Admiral Vatsayan held various important operational, staff and training appointments, including at the Headquarters Integrated



Defence Staff (HQ IDS), and Naval Headquarters (NHQ) in New Delhi.

“Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, AVSM, NM, assumed charge as the 47th Vice Chief of Naval Staff #VCNS on 01 Aug 2025,” the Navy said. Commissioned into the Indian Navy on January 1, 1988, the Flag Officer is a gunnery and missile systems specialist, it said.

“He held various important operational, staff and training appointments including DCIDS and DCIDS Ops, Chief of Staff, Deputy Commandant of the National Defence Academy, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet and ACNS Policy and Plans at #NHQ,” the Navy posted.

# Indian fuel exports escape Trump's tariff net, no Russian penalty yet

NEW DELHI, Aug 1 (PTI)

INDIA'S exports of petroleum products like diesel and jet fuel to the US continue to be exempted from the levy of any import duty or tariff, and President Donald Trump has, for now, not indicated the penalty he plans to impose to deter New Delhi's energy trade with Russia.

On Wednesday, Donald Trump had announced plans to impose a 25 per cent tariff on India, along with an additional penalty, citing concerns over the country's energy and defence ties with Russia, as well as existing trade barriers. However, the executive order he signed



thereafter only gives effect to 25 pc tariff on Indian goods coming to US.

Even this has an exclusion list that includes finished pharmaceutical products (tablets, injectables and syrups), active pharmaceutical ingredients, electronics and ICT goods (semiconductors, smartphones, SSDs and computers), and petroleum products (crude oil,

LNG, refined fuels, electricity and coal). The executive order also does not indicate any penalty that is to be levied for Russian trade. According to official data, India exported 4.86 million tonnes of petroleum products to the US in fiscal year 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) for over USD 4 billion. Reliance Industries Ltd is the biggest exporter of fuel to the US.

# 35% tariff on Canada; 20% on Sri Lanka

WASHINGTON, Aug 1 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has raised the tariff rate on US imports from Canada to 35% from 25%, effective on Friday.

The announcement from the White House late on Thursday said Canada had failed to “do more to arrest, seize, detain or otherwise intercept... Traffickers, criminals at large, and illicit drugs”.

Trump has heckled Canada for months and suggested it should become its 51st US state. He had threatened to impose the higher tariff on Canada if no deal was reached by Friday, his deadline for reaching trade agreements with dozens of countries.

Earlier on Thursday, the President said Canada's announcement it will recognise a Palestinian state would “make it very hard” for the United States to reach a trade agreement with its northern neighbour. Trump has also expressed frustration with a trade deficit with Canada that largely reflects oil purchases by America.

Prime Minister Mark Carney had tempered expectations over tariffs, saying Ottawa would only agree to a deal “if there's one on the table that is in the best interests of Canadians”.

In a statement released early on Friday, he said he was disappointed by Trump's actions and vowed to diversify Canada's exports.

“Canada accounts for only 1%



of US fentanyl imports and has been working intensively to further reduce these volumes,” he said, pointing to heavy investments in border security.

Carney added that some industries — including lumber, steel, aluminum and automobiles — will be harder hit, but said his government will try to minimize the impact and protect Canadian jobs.

Canada was not included in Trump's updated list of tariff rates on other countries announced late Thursday. Those import duties are due to take effect on Aug 7.

Trump sent a letter to Canada a few weeks ago warning he planned to raise duties on many goods imported from Canada to 35%, deepening the rift between the two North American countries that has undermined their decades-old alliance.

Some imports from Canada are still protected by the 2020 United States-Mexico-Canada

Agreement or USMCA, which is up for renegotiation next year.

The White House's statement said goods transshipped through Canada that are not covered by the USMCA would be subject to a 40% tariff rate. It did not say where the goods might originate.

President Donald Trump said Thursday that there would be a 90-day negotiating period with Mexico after a call with that country's leader, Claudia Sheinbaum, keeping 25% tariff rates in place. **US ANNOUNCES 20% TARIFF ON SRI LANKAN EXPORTS:** THE US has announced a 20 per cent tariff on Sri Lankan exports, marking a 24 per cent reduction from the initial rate proposed for the island nation.

The tariffs will go into effect on August 7.

Responding to the tariffs, top government negotiator Harshana Suriyapperuma said on Thursday that the levies place Sri Lanka on “level ground” with its competitors.

# NISAR mission enters critical 90-day commissioning phase

■ By S Vijay Karthik  
CHENNAI, Aug 1 (PTI)

THE historic NISAR mission, a landmark collaboration between NASA and ISRO, has entered its crucial 90-day commissioning phase, during which scientists will carry out rigorous checks, calibrations and orbital adjustments to prepare the satellite for full-scale earth observation.

The critical phase follows the successful launch of the radar imaging satellite on July 30 aboard a GSLV-F16 rocket from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking to PTI, Gerald W Bawden, Program Manager for Natural Hazards Research at NASA's Earth Sciences Division, outlined the key activities underway. "NISAR is inserted at an altitude of 737 km and we need to actually rise up to 747 km and it will take about 45-50 days for those operations to take place," he explained. After the commissioning is complete, he said the radars will be activated and it



NASA-ISRO NISAR satellite onboard GSLV-F16 launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, on Wednesday.

(ANI)

will start collecting data over "all ice, all land, all the time" from the Earth. "The resolution will be 5 metres by 5 metres and we will be imaging that every 12 days. So it is a lot of data. It is more data that NASA has collected in any other mission."

On the key lessons from the collaboration with the Bengaluru-based space agency for the NISAR mission, the scientist said, NASA learned from the ISRO's focus on how science can help society, while ISRO gained from NASA's deep focus on scientific research. Bawden said the project brought together scientists from two countries on opposite sides of the world, with a 12.5-hour time difference.

"... We had culture differences and the other thing is that we are on the opposite side of the world. We have to work together and we have the common love for technology." "The two scientists (of ISRO and NASA) are building partnerships by working together, friendships.

# Trump's strong warning to Russia

## Orders repositioning of US N-sub subs over Medvedev's statements

WASHINGTON, Aug 1 (AP)

IN A warning to Russia, President Donald Trump said on Friday that he's ordering the repositioning of two US nuclear submarines "based on the highly provocative statements" of the country's former President Dmitry Medvedev.

Trump posted on his social media site that based on the "highly provocative statements" from Medvedev he had "ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions, just in case these foolish and inflammatory statements are more than just that."

The President added, "Words are very important, and can often lead to unintended conse-

quences, I hope this will not be one of those instances."

It wasn't immediately clear what impact Trump's order would have on US nuclear subs, which are routinely on patrol in the world's hotspots, but it comes at a delicate moment in the Trump administration's relations with Moscow.

Trump has said that special envoy Steve Witkoff is heading to Russia to push Moscow to agree to a ceasefire in its war with Ukraine and has threatened new economic sanctions if progress is not made. He cut his 50-day deadline for action to 10 days, with that window set to expire next week.

The post about the sub repositioning came after Trump, in

the wee hours of Thursday morning, had posted that Medvedev was a "failed former President of Russia" and warned him to "watch his words." Medvedev responded hours later by writing, "Russia is right on everything and will continue to go its own way."

Medvedev was President from 2008 to 2012 while Putin was barred from seeking a second consecutive term but stepped aside to let him run again. Now deputy chairman of Russia's National Security Council, which Putin chairs, Medvedev has been known for his provocative and inflammatory statements since the start of the war in 2022, a U-turn from his presidency, when he was seen as liberal and pro-

gressive. He has frequently wielded nuclear threats and lobbed insults at Western leaders on social media. Some observers have argued that with his extravagant rhetoric, Medvedev is seeking to score political points with Putin and Russian military hawks.

Trump and Medvedev have gotten into online spats before.

On July 15, after Trump announced plans to supply Ukraine with more weapons via its NATO allies and threatened additional tariffs against Moscow, Medvedev posted, "Trump issued a theatrical ultimatum to the Kremlin. The world shuddered, expecting the consequences. Belligerent Europe was disappointed. Russia didn't care."