

# Issues at border must not define ties: China envoy

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New Delhi: As India and China consider more steps to normalise their relationship, Chinese ambassador to India Xu Feihong has reiterated Beijing's position that the "complex" border issue and "specific differences" should not define bilateral ties and hinder cooperation.

Speaking at a seminar, Xu stressed that this would be in line with the fundamental interests of both countries and the common aspirations of their people. Without naming any country, he also expressed hope that India and China would work together to defend multilateralism and reject "unilateral hegemony".

"The China-India border issue is very complex, and it will indeed take time to resolve it. I believe that as two ancient civilisations have sufficient wisdom and ability to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas and find a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution," said the ambassador, describing the border situation as stable.

"China is willing to work with India, under the guidance of the important consensus by the two leaders, to strengthen normalised boundary management and control, carry forward process of management and de-escalation and jointly maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas," he added.

## Law enforcement was impartial and non-abusive: China

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India on Monday lodged a strong protest with China for the treatment meted out to the Indian.

"Zangnan is China's territory. The Chinese side has never recognized the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' illegally set up by India," said the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson. "China's border inspection authorities carried out checks in accordance with laws and regulations, the law enforcement was impartial and non-abusive, the lawful rights and interests of the person concerned were fully protected, no compulsory measures were taken on her, and there was no so-called detaining or harassing," he added.

According to Beijing, the airline provided resting facilities and meals to the woman who was transiting in China. In its protest, India had stressed that the passenger was detained on ludicrous grounds as Arunachal was Indian territory and its residents were perfectly entitled to hold Indian passports. Govt also emphasised that at a time when both sides were working on restoring normalcy, actions like this introduced unnecessary obstructions to the process.

# Israel: Bibi-Modi bond strong, full confidence in India's security

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has full confidence in India's security under PM Narendra Modi, stressed the former's office after reports appeared in Israeli media saying he had postponed his visit because of concerns over the recent Delhi blast.



Neither side had announced the visit. Earlier in the day, Indian govt sources strongly denied that there was any link between the blast and the proposed Netanyahu visit. "Media reports in this regard are misleading and factually incorrect. Drawing links with the Delhi blast is irresponsible. We would urge caution against such misleading news stories," said a source.

Netanyahu's visit has been pending since 2023, when the Oct 7 Hamas terrorist attacks scuttled a proposed bilateral visit. With a ceasefire in place, even if fragile, both sides were in touch about a possible visit in Dec. However, as Netanyahu's office said, India and Israel are contemplating a new date—the visit is now expected to take place early next year.

Israel's bond with India and that between Netanyahu and Modi remain very strong, the Israeli PMO said, adding the PM had full confidence in India's security apparatus, and teams were already coordinating a new visit date.

# Xi trumps Don with mutual invitations amid fraying ties with Japan and India

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN



AFP/File photo

**HOWDY G-2:** Trump's post on the call omitted any reference to Taiwan that China said it raised, and instead focused on trade issues

## Japan PM highlights Trump bond after talks

Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi Tuesday said she received "call me anytime" message from US President Donald Trump on Tuesday in their first phone call since Tokyo's leader sparked a major diplomatic bust-up with China. In brief remarks following her call with Trump on Tuesday, Takaichi sought to dispel any concerns that the US president did not have her back. "President Trump mentioned that he and I are extremely good friends, and that I should call him anytime," Takaichi told reporters, adding that it was Trump who took the initiative to reach out to her. Trump explained to Takaichi the recent state of US-China relations including his phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday, she added. The White House did not respond to a request for comment about Trump's call with Takaichi. **REUTERS**

April, which I accepted, and I reciprocated where he will be my guest for a State Visit in the U.S. later in the year," Trump said in a post on social media, with no mention of the discussion on Taiwan.

Hours after the Xi call, President Trump spoke by phone with Takaichi, affirming "close cooperation" between Washington and Tokyo on Indo-Pacific security. The White House described the exchange as productive, touching on supply chain resilience and joint exercises, but offered no specifics on Taiwan.

The sequencing suggests Trump adopting a strategy of balancing great-power engagement with China — which he has repeatedly characterised as G-2 — without alienating

allies, though critics say it could embolden Beijing's assertiveness. Several US analysts are warning that Xi is "playing" Trump and "stringing him along" after the latter's threat to unleash an economic fusillade on China turned out to be bluster.

"Xi has secured Trump's commitment to several meetings in 2026, as well as concessions from the administration on incredibly contentious issues: Taiwan and US export controls. By every measure, China is diplomatically, strategically, and technologically better off than it was a year ago," foreign affairs commentator Jonathan Czin wrote. Commentators also cautioned that Trump's transactional diplomacy prioritising econo-

mic concessions over strategic commitments in the Indo-Pacific risks alienating allies and partners like Japan and India.

Trump has repeatedly talked up US-China relations — and his personal equation with Xi — in recent days even as several US analysts say Washington has come out worse in the fight the US president picked with Beijing. "This call was a follow-up to our highly successful meeting in South Korea three weeks ago. Since then, there has been significant progress on both sides in keeping our agreements current and accurate. Now we can set our sights on the big picture," Trump said in his post on Monday, even as Beijing was again bringing up the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh with New Delhi.

The latest spat between China and Japan began when Takaichi, who was elected last month, told lawmakers that a hypothetical Chinese attack on self-ruling Taiwan, which at its closest point is about 70 miles from Japanese territory, could threaten Japan's survival and trigger a military response from Tokyo.

Beijing's response was swift and severe. Foreign minister Wang Yi accused Takaichi of sending a "shocking wrong signal" by openly contemplating military intervention, labelling it a "red line" crossed. China's embassy in Tokyo summoned Japan's ambassador, and the PLA issued warnings of a "crushing defeat" for any Japanese involvement in a cross-strait conflict. The feud escalated to the UN on Nov 22, where China's envoy condemned Japan's stance as "provocative meddling". State media amplified the rhetoric, with the *Global Times* editorialising that Tokyo's "reckless words" echoed US "hegemony" and risked war.

Washington: China's President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump solidified their "G-2" compact on Monday with mutual invitations of high-level visits even as Beijing, embroiled in fresh spats with Japan and India, pressed its claims on Taiwan with little pushback from Washington.

In a 45-minute phone call, Xi ratcheted up the Taiwan issue after Japan's PM Sanae Takaichi, in her first major foreign policy address since taking office in Sept, declared that a Chinese attempt to blockade or seize Taiwan would constitute a "direct threat" to Japan's security and invoked the country's mutual defence treaty with the US.

The Xi-Trump telecon followed immediately, with Beijing asserting it underscored that Taiwan's return to China is an integral part of the post-war international order and warning against external interference that could destabilise the Asia-Pacific. Foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said that Xi emphasised the "one-China principle" as non-negotiable, framing it as essential for mutual trust.

Trump's post on the call completely omitted any reference to Taiwan that China said it raised, and instead focused on trade issues and improvement in ties. Some experts interpreted it as a US retreat in the face of China increasing pressure on the Taiwan front after seeing Washington throw Ukraine under the bus.

"I just had a very good telephone call with President Xi. We discussed many topics including Ukraine/Russia, Fentanyl, Soybeans and other Farm Products, etc. ... Our relationship with China is extremely strong! ... President Xi invited me to visit Beijing in

# Volcanic ash from Ethiopia affects flight operations; no impact on air

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**New Delhi:** Plumes of ash from a volcanic eruption in Ethiopia, which reached India late on Monday night, drifted away from the country by Tuesday night and entered China.

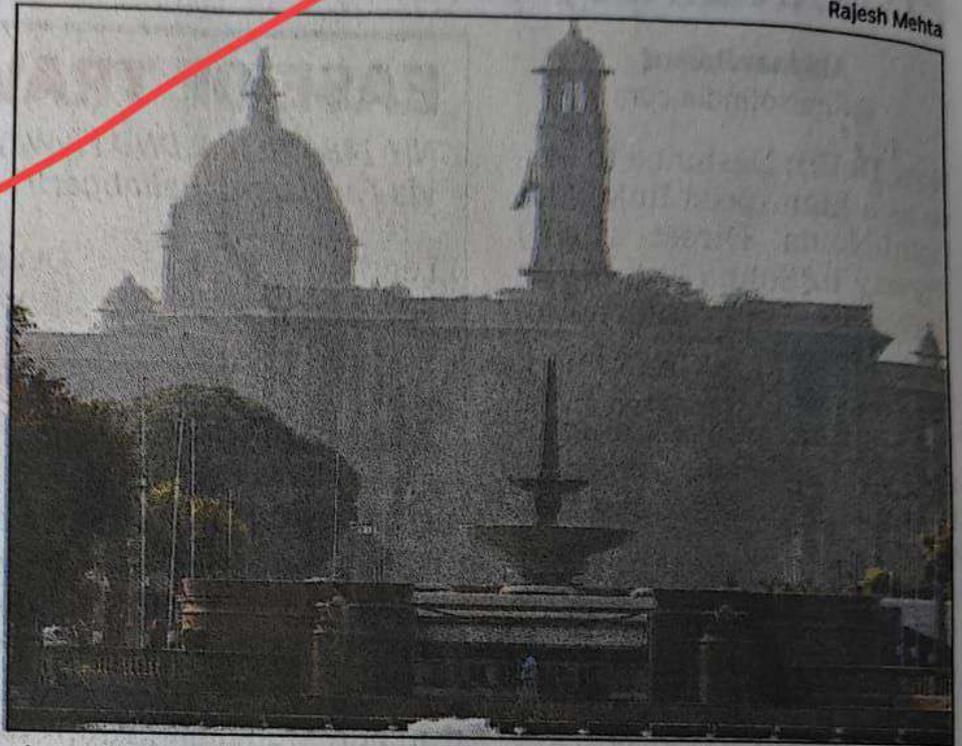
A few planes were cancelled or rerouted as a precaution, but flight operations across India largely remained smooth, said ministry of civil aviation.

The ash had no impact on the weather and air quality of Delhi as well as the rest of the country as its movement was limited to the upper troposphere. In fact, the capital's air quality index (AQI) improved to 353 from Monday's 382. The AQI improved further to 347 at 8pm. All three, though, are in the very poor bracket.

The city's air is likely to remain in the very poor category till Nov 28. It may hover between the severe and very poor ranges during the subsequent six days, according to the Centre's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi.

Meanwhile, at IGI Airport, seven international flights were cancelled between 1 am and 6 pm on Tuesday, and 12 international flights were delayed.

Air India said it cancelled



The ash had no impact on the weather and air quality of Delhi

11 flights across the country after carrying out precautionary checks on those aircraft that had flown over certain geographical locations since the Hayli Gubbi volcano erupted on Nov 23.

"Our ground teams are keeping passengers updated on the status of their flights and are providing immediate assistance, including hotel accommodation. We are making every effort to arrange alternative travel at the earliest," said Air India.

Stressing that there is no cause for concern, the ministry said it is ensuring seamless coordination with air

traffic controls, India Meteorological Department (IMD), airlines and international aviation agencies.

The eruption of Hayli Gubbi, a shield volcano in Ethiopia's Afar region, produced a large ash plume. Comprising sulphur dioxide, it reached an altitude of over 14 km and spread eastward across the Red Sea and towards the Arabian Peninsula and Indian sub-continent. High-level winds carried the ash cloud, said IMD, adding that it has monitored satellite imagery, updates from volcanic ash advisory centres (VAAC) and dispersion models.

# Arunachal integral part of India, govt tells China

## Row Deepens As Beijing Insists It Does Not Recognise State

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India, and this is a self-evident fact, asserted Indian govt as China reiterated its claim over the northeast Indian state following controversy over the detention of an Arunachal Pradesh woman at Shanghai airport.

No amount of denial by the Chinese side is going to change this indisputable reality, said the ministry of external affairs (MEA) in a statement on Tuesday. "The issue of the detention has been taken up strongly with the Chinese side. Chinese authorities have still not been able to explain their actions, which are

“China’s border inspection authorities carried out checks in accordance with laws and regulations, the law enforcement was impartial and non-abusive, the lawful rights and interests of the person concerned were fully protected, no compulsory measures were taken on her (Arunachal woman), and there was no so-called detaining or harassing

—China foreign ministry

“The issue of the detention (of Arunachal woman) has been taken up strongly with the Chinese side. Chinese authorities have still not been able to explain their actions, which are in violation of several conventions governing international air travel

—MEA spokesperson  
Randhir Jaiswal

in violation of several conventions governing international air travel,” said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, adding that the action by Chinese also violated their own regulations that allow visa-free transit up to 24 hours for nationals of all countries.

The ministry was responding to the Chinese foreign ministry’s remarks on the “arbitrary” detention of an Indian citizen from Arunachal Pradesh, who was holding a valid passport and was

transiting through Shanghai International Airport on her onward travel to Japan.

Denying that the woman was detained or harassed, the Chinese foreign ministry had earlier said border checks on people entering and exiting a country and carrying out law enforcement according to the “specific situation of the entry or exit is the usual practice” of border enforcement authorities of countries.

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