

Trump on 3-day China visit from May 13

BEIJING, May 11 (PTI)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump will pay an official visit to China from May 13

to 15 at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced on Monday. This will be the first

visit to China by a US President in nine years. Trump himself was the last US President to visit China in 2017, during his first term.

Govt: No reason to panic, but follow PM's energy pointers

No Rationing; Steps Taken To Avert Shortage

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A day after PM Modi set out a list of "resolutions" to conserve fuel and save foreign exchange, govt on Monday urged people to stay calm and avoid panic, saying there were enough oil suppli-

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es in the country and concrete steps were being taken to prevent shortages and supply chain disruptions.

Chairing a meeting of the informal group of ministers (IGoM) on West Asia developments, defence minister Rajnath Singh said, "govt's primary focus is to ensure that energy flows remain uninterrupted, economic stability is maintained and maritime trade routes remain secure".



PM Modi at Somnath temple for the 75th anniversary celebrations

At CII's annual meet, petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal said there was no need for fuel rationing or panic buying, even as he urged people to follow the PM's guidelines.

PM Modi doubled down on his appeal on Monday, and suggested schools consider online classes temporarily. "First came the Covid-19 crisis, followed by global economic challenges, and now rising tensions in West Asia.

Modi: Nehru opposed Somnath rebuilding

At the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav, PM Modi accused his opponents of placing appeasement politics above national pride. The rebuilding of Somnath temple symbolised India's determination to reclaim its civilisational identity, he said. The PM alleged even after Independence, genuine efforts to reconstruct the temple faced resistance from then PM Nehru. **P 11**

The impact of all these circumstances is continuously being felt across the entire world, and India is certainly not immune to it," he said in Vadodara. "Through every small and big effort, we must reduce our consumption of imported products and refrain from personal activities that involve expenditure of foreign currency."

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Oil rises as Trump rejects Iran plan, Strait still shut

Oil prices rose after US President Trump rejected Iran's response to his latest peace proposal, prolonging the effective closure of the crucial Strait of Hormuz ahead of his trip to China from May 13.

Brent crude futures advanced as much as 4.6%, before paring gains to trade near

ENERGY WARS

\$103 a barrel. Trump said he plans to suspend a federal gasoline tax as consumers deal with surging energy prices.

In a social media post, Trump said Iran's response was "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE", and added that the ceasefire with Iran was "at its weakest" and on "life support".

The US and Israel's war on Iran started on Feb 28, and attacks have been paused since April 8 in a truce deal. **P 16**

PM is avoiding

Trump rejects Iran's proposal, says ceasefire 'on life support'

Tehran Had Sought End To Blockade, Compensation, Sovereignty Over Hormuz

Washington/Dubai: President Donald Trump said on Monday that a ceasefire with Iran was "on life support" after he rejected Tehran's response to a US peace proposal, fuelling concerns of a resumption of hostilities in the 10-week-old conflict that has killed thousands and halted vital energy flows.

Days after Washington floated a proposal aimed at reopening negotiations, Iran on Sunday released a response focused on ending the war on all fronts, including Lebanon, where US ally Israel is fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah militants. The response had been swiftly rejected by Trump. "I don't like it — TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE," Trump wrote on Truth Social, without giving further detail.

Asked where the ceasefire stands, Trump told reporters on Monday: "I would call it the weakest right now, after reading that piece of garbage they sent us. I didn't even finish reading it," he said.

In its response, Tehran also demanded compensation for war damage, emphasised its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, and called on the US to end its naval blockade, guarantee no further attacks, lift sanctions and remove a ban on Iranian oil sales. The US had proposed an end to fighting before contentious issues, including Iran's nuclear programme.

Tehran defended its stance on Monday. "Our demand is legitimate: demanding an



Curious visitors check a video game mocking the war on Iran that appeared at the National Mall in Washington DC on Monday

Trump: Will move to suspend gasoline tax

President Trump said Monday he will move to suspend the federal tax on gasoline to help Americans shoulder surging fuel prices caused by the Iran war. The president cannot suspend the federal tax on his own. Congress would have to approve the move. Lawmakers from both parties have pushed for a gas-tax suspension, saying it would provide much-needed relief for families and businesses that rely on their cars and trucks to get to work and school and run everyday errands. Asked by reporters at the White House how long the tax should be suspended, Trump said, "Until it's appropriate." AP

end to the war, lifting the (US) blockade and piracy, and releasing Iranian assets that have been unjustly frozen in banks due to US pressure," foreign

Deployed mini subs to control Strait: Iran

Iran says it's deployed small submarines to act as an "invisible guardian" of the Strait of Hormuz amid a series of rejected peace deals between Tehran and the US. The Islamic Republic has at least 16 of the Ghadir-class midget submarines, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Each has a crew of fewer than 10 people and can carry either two torpedoes or two Chinese-designed C-704 anti-ship cruise missiles. But they are noisier than most modern submarines. Their crews also have limited experience, and the vessels are known to have maintenance issues, a person in the know said. BLOOMBERG

ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said. "Safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz and establishing security in the region and Lebanon we

re other demands of Iran, which are considered a generous and responsible offer."

Trickle of traffic via Hormuz

Traffic through the Strait of Hormuz is at a trickle compared with before the war. Shipping data on Kpler and LSEG showed that three tankers laden with crude exited the waterway last week, with trackers switched off to avoid Iranian attacks. A second Qatari LNG tanker was attempting to transit the strait, the data showed, days after the first such cargo crossed under an arrangement involving Iran and Pakistan. Sporadic flare-ups around the strait in recent days have tested a ceasefire that has paused all-out warfare since it took effect in early April.

Trump to talk Iran with Xi

The next diplomatic or military steps remain unclear. Trump is expected to arrive in Beijing on Wednesday, where Iran is set to be among the topics discussed with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump has been leaning on China to use its influence to push Tehran toward a deal with Washington. Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Baghaei suggested China could instead use the visit to push back against US objectives in the Gulf. "Our Chinese friends know very well how to use these opportunities to warn about the consequences of the US' illegal and bullying actions on regional peace and security," he said. AGENCIES

Ukraine, Russia fight on despite a brief ceasefire mediated by US

Russia and Ukraine on Monday reported fighting along their long front line despite a US-mediated ceasefire, and each accused the other of launching drone and artillery strikes.

Ukraine and Russia agreed on Friday to a ceasefire from May 9 to May 11 as part of a US-led push for peace under President Donald Trump after more than four years of war following Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. Trump said on Friday he hoped the ceasefire would be extended, but it was already showing signs of strain on Sunday, when each side accused the other of violating it.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Sunday Moscow had refrained from large-scale attacks but had continued assaults along parts of the 1,200-km front line where Russian forces are advancing.

He said Ukrainian troops were responding and defending their positions. Russian state news agencies reported Russia's defence ministry had recorded 23,802 ceasefire violations by Ukraine since the start of the ceasefire. REUTERS

West Bengal Govt approves land transfer to BSF for border fencing



Central welfare schemes, including Ayushman Bharat and Jan Arogya Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and the Ujwala 3.0 scheme would now be implemented in West Bengal. BNS criminal law will also be implemented.

West Bengal shares a 2,216.7 km border with Bangladesh, of which about 569 km remains unfenced.



HOWRAH, May 11 (ANI)

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday announced that the State Government has begun the process of transferring land to

the Border Security Force (BSF) for fencing the India-Bangladesh border. The newly elected Chief Minister said that the land would be handed over to the Ministry of Home Affairs within 45 days to address the

issue of illegal infiltration.

Addressing media persons after the first Cabinet meeting of the newly-formed BJP Government at Nabanna in Howrah, Adhikari said the decision was among the key resolu-

tions taken during the meeting.

“In our very first Cabinet meeting today, we have taken the decision to transfer the land to the BSF. The process of transferring this land commences today. It will be transferred to the MHA within the next 45 days. Once this is accomplished, the BSF will complete the border fencing, and the ongoing issue of illegal infiltration will be resolved within a short period,” Adhikari said.

The Chief Minister said the first cabinet meeting with senior officials focused on governance priorities and development initiatives under the BJP’s “double-engine Government.”

“The first cabinet meeting with all concerned officials went well. We assure the people of Bengal that the double-engine Government will complete all development-related works. Six decisions were taken during our first cabinet meeting,” he stated. Adhikari also announced that central welfare schemes,

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EC set to roll out phase III of SIR in 'coming days'; to cover 22 States, UTs

NEW DELHI, May 11 (PTI)

THE Election Commission is set to roll out phase three of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' list in the next "coming days", officials said on Monday, adding that it could cover the remaining 22 States and Union Territories covering nearly 40 crore electors. The poll authority had held back its rollout due to assembly elections in Kerala, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu

and West Bengal held last month.

The officials said SIR could be rolled out in the "coming days" as the poll process is now complete. So far, SIR has been carried out in 10 States and three UTs. They are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Bihar. A 'special revision' of electoral rolls was carried out in Assam.

Sixty crore of the nearly 99 crore voters have been covered in the clean-up exercises of these voters' list. The remaining nearly 40 crore electors will be covered in the proposed exercise in 17 States and five UTs. On Feb 19, the poll authority had asked 22 States and UTs including Delhi to complete preparatory work related to SIR at the earliest as the exercise is "expected to start from April". Once the exercise is completed, all States and UTs will be covered.

Philippine Vice President impeached

MANILA, May 11 (AP)

AN OVERWHELMING majority of the House of Representatives of the Philippines voted to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday over alleged unexplained wealth and threats to have the President assassinated,



Sara Duterte

as the rift between the two top officials escalated.

The House, which is dominated by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s allies, voted 255-26 with nine abstentions. The two impeachment complaints against Duterte, which will now be elevated to the Senate for a trial, mark an initial setback to her plan to seek the presidency in 2028.

The Vice President, who is the daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte, has generally denied any wrongdoing without answering the criminal allegations against her in detail.