



People inspect the damage at the site of an Israeli strike in Bednayeil, Bekaa valley, Lebanon, yesterday. At least 10 people were killed and 50 wounded in the Israeli strikes in Bekaa Valley. The strikes on Friday were among the deadliest reported in eastern Lebanon in recent weeks and risk testing a fragile US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Shia Islamist group Hezbollah, which has been strained by recurring accusations of violations.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump to travel to China next month

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump will travel to China from March 31 to April 2 for a highly anticipated meeting between the leaders of the world's two biggest economies, a trip announced as the Supreme Court overturned Trump's sweeping tariffs on imported goods.

A White House official confirmed the trip on Friday, just before the highest U.S. court dealt Trump a stinging defeat by striking down many of the tariffs he has used in a global trade war, including some against rival China.

Trump's talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on an extended visit to Beijing had been expected to revolve around extending a trade truce that kept both countries from further hiking tariffs.

But the Supreme Court's reversal created new questions for tense U.S.-China relations that had recently stabilized after Trump trimmed tariffs on Chinese goods, in exchange for measures from Beijing, including cracking down on the illicit fentanyl trade and pausing export restrictions on critical minerals.

Twenty percent tariffs on China's U.S.-bound exports were imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, which the court ruled Trump had overstepped. Those tariffs were tied to national emergencies related to fentanyl distribution and trade imbalances.

Brazil, India ink rare earth, mineral deal

AFP, New Delhi

India and Brazil agreed to boost cooperation on critical minerals and rare earths yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after talks in New Delhi with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

"The agreement on critical minerals and rare earths in a major step towards building resilient supply chains," Modi said.

Brazil has the world's second-largest reserves of critical minerals, which are used in everything from electric vehicles, solar panels and smartphones to jet engines and guided missiles.

India, seeking to cut its dependence on top exporter China, has been expanding domestic production and recycling while scouting for new suppliers.

"Increasing investments and cooperation in matters of renewable energies and critical minerals is at the core of the pioneering agreement that we have signed today," Lula said.

The details of the deal were not immediately available.

Nine other agreements and memoranda of understanding were finalised yesterday, the foreign ministry's spokesman said, touching on digital cooperation, health, entrepreneurship and other fields.

"Brazil is India's largest trade partner in Latin America. We are committed to

taking our bilateral trade beyond \$20 billion in the coming five years," Modi said.

"Our trade is not just a figure, but a reflection of trust."

Lula, who arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday for a summit on artificial intelligence, is accompanied by a delegation of more than a dozen ministers as well as business leaders.

On Saturday, he was given a ceremonial welcome and paid his tributes to India's

minerals complements recent supply chain engagements with the United States, France and the European Union.

India, the world's most populous nation, is the 10th largest market for Brazilian exports, with bilateral trade topping \$15 billion in 2025.

Key Brazilian exports to India include sugar, crude oil, vegetable oils, cotton and iron ore. Demand for iron ore has been driven by rapid infrastructure expansion and industrial growth in India, which is on



independence hero Mahatma Gandhi, before going into the meeting with Modi.

With China holding a near-monopoly on rare earths production, some countries are seeking alternative sources.

Rishabh Jain, an expert with the Delhi-based Council on Energy, Environment and Water think tank, said India's growing cooperation with Brazil on critical

track to become the world's fourth largest economy.

India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar said he was confident that Lula's talks with Modi "will impart a new momentum to our ties".

Modi said that "our cooperation in the defence sector is also continuously growing," hailing a "win-win partnership".

GLOBAL SUMMIT ON AI Call grows for 'trustworthy and robust AI'

AFP, New Delhi

Dozens of nations including the United States and China called for "secure, trustworthy and robust" artificial intelligence, in a declaration issued yesterday after a major summit on the technology in New Delhi.

The statement signed by 86 countries did not include concrete commitments to regulate the fast-developing technology, instead highlighting several voluntary, non-binding initiatives.

"AI's promise is best realised only when its benefits are shared by humanity," said the statement, released by the five-day AI Impact Summit.

It called the advent of generative AI "an inflection point in the trajectory of technological evolution". "Advancing secure, trustworthy and robust AI is foundational to building trust and maximising societal and economic benefits," it said.

The summit -- attended by tens of thousands including top tech CEOs -- was the fourth annual global meeting to discuss the promises and pitfalls of AI, and the first hosted by a developing country.

Hot topics discussed included AI's potential societal benefits, such as drug discovery and translation tools, but also the threat of job losses, online abuse and the heavy power consumption of data centres.

Analysts had said earlier that the summit's broad focus, and vague promises made at the previous meetings in France, South Korea and Britain, would make strong pledges or immediate action unlikely.



The United States, home to industry-leading companies such as Google and ChatGPT maker OpenAI, did not sign last year's summit statement, warning that regulation could be a drag on innovation.

"We totally reject global governance of AI," US delegation head Michael Kratsios had said at the Delhi summit on Friday.

The United States signed a bilateral declaration on AI with India on Friday, pledging to "pursue a global approach to AI that is unapologetically friendly to entrepreneurship and innovation".

But it also put its name to the main summit statement, the release of which was originally expected Friday but was delayed by one day to maximise the number of signatories, India's government said.

On AI safety risks -- from misinformation and surveillance to fears of the creation of devastating new pathogens -- Saturday's summit declaration struck a cautious tone.

"Deepening our understanding of the potential security aspects remains important," it said.

"We recognize the importance of security in AI systems, industry-led voluntary measures, and the adoption of technical solutions, and appropriate policy frameworks that enable innovation."

On jobs, it emphasised reskilling initiatives to "support participants in preparation for a future AI driven economy". And "we underscore the importance of developing energy-efficient AI systems" given the technology's growing demands on natural resources, it said.



A woman and man walk along a pedestrian crossing on a main street in Tehran yesterday. The United States and Iran are facing off with threats of military action, even as the arch-foes pursue fresh negotiations. Story on Page 12.

PHOTO: AFP



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Public Administration
Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy
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