

Barack Obama says cyber-attacks emanating from China 'not acceptable'

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Washington: Ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's US visit, President Barack Obama has said cyber-attacks emanating from China are "not acceptable" and will be treated as a "core national security threat".

"We've made it very clear to the Chinese that there are certain practices that they're engaging in that we know are emanating from China and are not acceptable," Obama said at a town hall meeting with soldiers at Fort Meade.

Barack Obama said Chinese President Xi will be coming for a state visit in a couple of weeks time.

"We can choose to make this an area of competition -- which I guarantee you we'll win if we have to -- or, alternatively, we can come to an agreement in which we say, this isn't helping anybody; let's instead try to have some basic rules of the road in terms of how we operate," President Obama said in response to a question.

"There's still going to be individual actors, there are going to be terrorist networks and others, so we're still going to have to build a strong defence. But one of our first and most important efforts has to be to get the states that may be sponsoring cyber-attacks to understand that there comes a point at which we consider this a core national security threat and we will treat it as such," he said.

In response to another question, President Obama said the core of al-Qaeda has been destroyed in the Af-Pak region but they still pose a threat.

"We've done an incredible job in going after and systematically dismantling the core al-Qaeda network that was operating primarily in the FATA region between Afghanistan and Pakistan," President Obama said.

"They still pose a threat, but it is much diminished. But what's happened with this radical, violent extremism is that it's metastasised and it's spread to other areas. And right now, ground zero for those activities is in Syria with ISIS," the President said in response to a question.

"Despite the progress we've made in Afghanistan, it's still critically important that we've got thousands of trainers and advisors who are supporting the Afghan military efforts there. Our combat role is complete, but we still have to make sure that they are getting the kind of help and assistance that they need," he added.

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