

US lawmakers urge Trump to seek lower Indian tariffs on pulse crops in trade talks

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Jan 17 (PTI)

Two US lawmakers have urged President Donald Trump to push for favourable provisions for pulse crop in any future trade deal with India, saying American producers face a “significant competitive disadvantage” due to what they described as “unfair” tariffs imposed by New Delhi.

In a letter dated Jan 16 addressed to Trump, Republican Senators Steve Daines of Montana and Kevin Cramer of North Dakota said their States are the top two producers of pulse crops, including peas, while India is the world’s largest consumer, accounting for about 27 per cent of global consumption.

They noted that lentils, chickpeas, dried beans and peas are among the most commonly consumed pulse crops in India, but New Delhi has imposed substantial tariffs on American exports in these categories.

The Senators pointed out that India



announced on October 30 last year a 30 per cent tariff on yellow peas, which came into effect on November 1, 2025.

“As a result of the unfair Indian tariffs, US pulse crop producers face a significant competitive disadvantage when exporting their high-quality product to India,” the letter said. Daines and Cramer said engaging Prime Minister Narendra Modi on pulse crop tariffs to enhance the economic cooperation between the two countries would be “mutually beneficial” for both American producers and Indian consumers.

'8 European countries will be charged 10 pc tariff for opposing US control of Greenland'



US President Donald Trump

NUUK (Greenland), Jan 17 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Saturday that he would charge a 10 per cent import tax starting in February on goods from eight European nations because of their opposition to American control of Greenland.

Trump said in a social media post that Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Finland would face the tariff and that it would climb to 25 per cent on June 1 if a deal is not in place for "the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland" by the United States.

The threat of tariffs was a dras-

tic and potentially dangerous escalation of a showdown between Trump and NATO allies, further straining an alliance that dates to 1949 and provides a collective degree of security to Europe and North America.

The Republican President has repeatedly tried to use trade penalties to bend allies and rivals alike to his will, generating investment commitments from some nations and pushback from others such as China, Brazil and India. It was unclear how Trump could impose the tariffs under US law, though he could cite economic emergency powers that are currently subject to a US Supreme Court challenge.

Trump said in his Truth Social post that his tariffs were retaliation for recent trips to Greenland by representatives from Britain, the Netherlands and Finland and for general opposition to his efforts to purchase the semiautonomous territory of NATO ally Denmark. He has Greenland is essential for the "Golden Dome" missile defence system for the US,



and has argued that Russia and China might try to take over the island. Resistance has steadily built in Europe to Trump's ambitions, even as several countries on the continent agreed to his 15 per cent tariffs last year in order to preserve an economic and security relationship with Washington.

Earlier on Saturday, hundreds of people in Greenland's capital braved near-freezing temperatures, rain and icy streets to march in a rally in support of their own self-governance.

The Greenlanders waved their red-and-white national flags and listened to traditional songs as they walked through Nuuk's small downtown. Some carried

(Contd on page 3)

PM flags off first Vande Bharat sleeper train

Launches rail, road projects worth Rs 3,250 cr in WB



Prime Minister Narendra Modi (above) flags off India's first Vande Bharat sleeper train connecting Howrah and Guwahati. Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose are also present. (right) interacts with students during flagging off the country's first Vande Bharat sleeper train between Howrah and Guwahati (Kamakhya), in Malda, WB. (ANI/PTI)

sleeper train between Howrah and Guwahati, and launched several rail and road infrastructure projects worth Rs 3,250 crore in West Bengal. At a public function in Malda in north Bengal, the Prime

Minister virtually flagged off four Amrit Bharat Express trains connecting New Jalpaiguri with Nagercoil and Tiruchirappalli, and Alipurduar with SMVT Bengaluru and Mumbai (Contd on page 3)



MALDA, Jan 17 (PTI) on Saturday flagged off India's first Vande Bharat

'Infiltration biggest challenge for WB, refugees need not worry'

MALDA, Jan 17 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday made infiltration the central plank of his attack on the TMC Government in West Bengal, alleging that large-scale illegal migration altered the state's demography, triggered riots, and thrived due to the ruling party's "patronage and syndicate raj". Amid the ongoing political controversy over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Modi sought to reassure refugees such as the Matuas, who migrated to India after facing religious persecution in neighbouring Bangladesh, asserting that they had noth-

ing to fear. Addressing a mega rally in this Muslim-majority district, Modi said infiltration posed "a very big challenge" before Bengal and asserted that even developed and prosperous countries were taking firm action to identify and remove illegal migrants. He also said that the BJP, once voted to power, would take "big action" to crack down on infiltrators and stop illegal migration in Bengal. "There are developed and prosperous countries in the world which have no shortage of money, yet they are removing infiltrators. It is equally necessary to remove (Contd on page 3)

Gor, RBI Governor discuss new cooperation

MUMBAI, Jan 17 (IANS)

US AMBASSADOR to India, Sergio Gor, on Saturday said he met Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) governor Sanjay Malhotra here, and discussed areas of increased cooperation. Gor also visited the US Consulate in Mumbai during his first trip to the financial capital.

"Very much enjoyed meeting RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra. We discussed areas of increased cooperation, including new state-of-the-art US technology," Gor said in a post on X.



US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor meets RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, in Mumbai on Friday. (ANI)

According to the US envoy, India will be invited next month to join Pax Silica, a US-led strategic technology initiative focused on semiconductors, artificial intelligence and critical supply chains. In an earlier X update, Gor said: "Excited to kick off my first visit to Mumbai with a visit to our Consulate! Our dedicated team working hard to bolster the US-India partnership."

He said that India and the United States remain actively engaged on trade issues, with the next round of discussions

(Contd on page 3)