

'For every \$1 world invests in Nature, it spends \$30 on destroying it'

NEW DELHI, Jan 22 (IANS)

FOR every \$1 the world invests in protecting Nature, it spends \$30 on destroying it. This stark imbalance is the central finding of a new UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report released on Thursday.

It calls for a major shifting of global financing of Nature-based solutions and phasing out harmful investments to deliver high

returns, reduce risk exposure, and enhance resilience.

"The State of Finance for Nature 2026", which uses data for 2023, finds \$7.3 trillion in total nature-negative finance flows with \$4.9 trillion from private sources highly concentrated in a few sectors -- utilities, industrials, energy, and basic materials and public environmentally harmful subsidies to fossil fuels, agriculture, water transport and

construction of \$2.4 trillion in 2023. "If you follow the money, you see the size of challenge ahead of us. We can either invest into nature's destruction or power it to recover. There is no middle ground," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.

"While financing nature-based solutions crawls forward, harmful investments and subsidies are surging ahead. This

report offers leaders a clear road map to reverse this trend and

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work with nature, rather than against it," Andersen said.

Since reforming and repurposing private and public cap-

ital flows is the most powerful tool to shift markets toward sustainability, the report introduces a new Nature Transition X-Curve, a framework designed to help policymakers and businesses sequence reforms and scale up high-integrity nature-based solutions (NbS) across all sectors of the economy.

The framework charts a path for phasing out harmful
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Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP

Trump rolls out his Board of Peace @ Davos



President Donald Trump, right, meets with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte during a meeting on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Wednesday. (AP/PTI)

DAVOS, Jan 22 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Thursday inaugurated his "Board of Peace" to lead efforts at maintaining a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas, insisting that "everyone wants to be a part" of the body that could eventually rival the United Nations — despite many US allies opting not to participate.

In a speech at the World Economic Forum, Trump sought to create momentum for a project to map out a future for the war-torn Gaza Strip that has been overshadowed this week, first by his threats to seize Greenland, and then by a dramatic retreat from that push.

"This isn't the United States, this is for the world," Trump said, adding, "I think we can spread it out to other things as we succeed in Gaza."

The event came as Ali Shaath, head of the new technocratic government in Gaza, said the Rafah border crossing will open

in both directions next week. That's after Israel said in early December it would open the crossing, which runs between Gaza and Egypt, but has yet to do so.

The new board was initially envisioned as a small group of world leaders overseeing the ceasefire, but has morphed into something far more ambitious — and scepticism about its membership and mandate has led some countries usually closest to Washington take a pass.

Trump tried not to let those who weren't there ruin his unenviable party, saying 59 countries had signed on. He told a group of participating world leaders and top diplomats from Azerbaijan to Paraguay to Hungary, "You're the most powerful people in the world."

Trump said of those assembled, "every one of them is a friend of mine", and noted that in "most cases" they were "very popular leaders. Some cases -- not so popular. That's the way

Countries that have accepted invitations to join the board

- Argentina
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- Egypt
- Hungary
- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kosovo
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Pakistan
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam
- Israel

Countries that will not join the board, at least for now

- France
- Norway
- Slovenia
- Sweden
- The United Kingdom
- Ukraine

Countries that have been invited but remain noncommittal

- Cambodia
- China
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Canada
- Germany
- Greece
- India
- Italy
- The EU's executive arm
- Paraguay
- Russia
- Singapore
- Turkey

it goes." Attending were Secretary of State Marco Rubio, US special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the President's son-in-law and a key overseas negotiator for his administration on several fronts.

Among those also on hand

were Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan; Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev; Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, and President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan. Many are Trump allies, including Argentine President Javier Milei

Trump scraps tariffs on 8 European nations

DAVOS, Jan 22 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump announced Wednesday that he was scrapping his planned tariffs on eight European nations in an effort to force US control over Greenland, pulling a dramatic reversal shortly after insisting he wanted to get the island "including right, title and ownership."

In a post on his social media site, Trump said he had agreed with the head of NATO on a "framework of a future deal" on Arctic security, potentially defusing tension that had far-reaching geopolitical implications.

He said "additional discussions" on Greenland were being held concerning the Golden Dome missile defence programme, a multilayered, USD 175 billion system that for the first time will put US weapons in space.

In a subsequent interview with CNBC, Trump offered few details but described the agreement reached as a "forever deal" and boasted, "Now we're going to have even better security than we would have had before."

The tariffs were to have started at 10 per cent next month and climb to 25 per cent in June.

and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto.

Trump has spoken about the board replacing some UN functions and perhaps even making that entire body obsolete one day. But he was more conciliatory in his remarks on the sidelines of the forum in the Swiss Alps, saying, "We'll do it in conjunction with the United Nations," even though he denigrated the UN for doing what he said wasn't enough to calm some conflicts around the globe.

Rubio noted during the event that some countries' leaders have indicated that they plan to join but still require approval from their parliaments, and the Trump administration says it has also gotten queries about membership from countries that hadn't been invited to par-

ticipate yet. Big questions remain, however, about what the eventual board will look like.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country is still consulting with Moscow's "strategic partners" before deciding to commit. The Russian president is due to host Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for talks in Moscow on Thursday.

Others are asking why Putin and other authoritarian leaders had even been invited to join. Britain's Foreign Secretary, Yvette Cooper, said her country wasn't signing on "because this is about a legal treaty that raises much broader issues."

"And we do also have concerns about President Putin being part of something which

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EAM bats for stronger India-EU relations

NEW DELHI, Jan 22 (IANS)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Thursday held an interaction with the Ambassadors from European Union (EU) member countries in New Delhi which, according to him, focused on the current state of the world with volatility and instability around.

The discussions came ahead of the State Visit to India by the European Council President Antonio Luís Santos da Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who will also be the Chief Guests at the 77th Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

“Pleased to interact with the



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a meeting with ambassadors from EU countries.

(PTI)

Ambassadors from EU countries today. Spoke to them about the current state of the world with

volatility and instability as the new normal,” EAM Jaishankar posted on X after meeting the EU

Ambassadors.

“Made a case for stronger India-EU relations that will: Derisk the world economy by cooperating on resilient supply chains; Reassure the international community by providing public goods like HADR, anti-piracy operations, development projects etc; and, stabilise the global order through stronger trade, mobility and security partnership,” he added.

The EAM mentioned further that India is eagerly looking forward to the visit of the European Council President Antonio Luís Santos da Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for the Republic Day celebrations.

Will decide on joining Trump's Board of Peace after consultations: Putin

■ By Vinay Shukla
MOSCOW, Jan 22 (PTI)

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has said any decision on joining the Board of Peace led by the US to oversee the Gaza ceasefire plan will be taken after consultations with Moscow's strategic partners.

"Regarding our participation in the 'Peace Board', the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been instructed to study the documents received by us, consult with our strategic partners on this matter, and only then will we be able to respond to the invitation extended to us," Putin said in his televised opening remarks at the national Security Council meeting late Wednesday night.

"We have always supported and continue to support any efforts aimed at strengthening

None of our business: Putin on Greenland

MOSCOW, Jan 22 (PTI)

WITH US President Donald Trump's demand to acquire Greenland putting Denmark on the edge and rocking the unity of NATO, Russian President Putin said he is not concerned about the issue.

"Denmark has always treated Greenland as a colony and has been harsh, if not cruel, towards it. But that's a different matter, and I doubt anyone's interested in it now. What happens to Greenland is none of our business," Putin said.

international stability. We also acknowledge the current US administration's contribution to

the search for a solution to the Ukrainian crisis," Putin said, thanking US President Trump for the invitation. The Board of Peace led by Trump was originally envisioned as a small group of world leaders overseeing the Gaza ceasefire plan.

Since then, the Trump administration's ambitions have ballooned into a more sprawling concept, with Trump extending invitations to dozens of nations and hinting the board will soon broker global conflicts, like a pseudo-UN Security Council.

Putin noted that the proposal made to Russia was primarily about a settlement in West Asia and about finding possible solutions to the pressing problems of the Palestinian people and resolving the most acute humanitarian problems in the Gaza Strip.

'Opportunity for 'great powers' to join forces'

DAVOS, Jan 22 (PTI)

DAYS before the signing of a free trade agreement between India and the European Union, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Thursday said "the era of great powers" presents an opportunity for countries favouring regulations to join forces against protectionism and isolationism.

In a special address at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting here, the chancellor said he wants high growth in Europe and will do everything possible to achieve that.

"In a few days, the President of the European Commission will travel to India to establish the principles of a free trade agreement (FTA) between the subcontinent and the European Union," he said.

"I was in India a week ago, and I have no doubt whatsoever that the era of great powers presents an opportunity for all of us and for all countries that favour regulations above arbitrary rule and see benefit in free trade than in protectionism and isolationism."

The chancellor said the EU is joining forces with new partners in this direction.

On Tuesday, European



"I have no doubt whatsoever that the era of great powers presents an opportunity for all of us and for all countries that favour regulations above arbitrary rule and see benefit in free trade than in protectionism and isolationism," German Chancellor Friedrich Merz

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said here that the European Union is on the cusp of signing a historic trade agreement with India, which is being called 'the mother of all deals,' and it will create a market for 2 billion people or about one-fourth of the global GDP.

She said the deal would crucially provide a first-mover advantage for Europe with one of the world's fastest-growing and most dynamic continents.

"Europe wants to do business with the growth centres of today and the economic powerhouses of this century." President of the European Council Antonio Costa and von der Leyen will be in India from January 25 to 27 to grace the Republic Day celebrations as chief guests and hold summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two sides are set to announce the conclusion of negotiations on the much-awaited free trade agreement at the India-EU summit on January 27.

The European Union is India's biggest trade partner, with bilateral trade in goods recording USD 135 billion in the financial year 2023-24. The free trade agreement is expected to significantly enhance trade ties.

'Small nuclear reactors to tackle India's hefty energy import bill'

NEW DELHI, Jan 22 (ANI)

NUCLEAR energy, particularly small nuclear reactors are becoming central to India's strategy to tackle a heavy energy import bill, enhance energy security, and drive decarbonization.

Speaking to ANI, Shamika Ravi, a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), highlighted the importance of small nuclear reactors within the broader 2047 energy strategy.

"Nuclear, small nuclear reactors



Shamika Ravi

in particular, are going to be instrumental in weaning us away from these large import bills," Ravi said on the sidelines of the 10th Convocation of the Vedica Scholars Programme for Women held on Wednesday in New Delhi.

She also highlighted the Government's push to diversify energy sources amid global uncertainty.

Ravi added that greater emphasis on renewables was also aimed at the same objective of improving energy security and sustainability. Further highlighting the Government's push to diversify energy sources amid



global uncertainty.

She said India was not rich in coal or natural resources and continued to rely significantly on imports to meet its energy needs. "For the sake of energy sustainability, there is an effort to move away from these large import bills," she said.