

Trump stirs talk of 'new world order' as leaders signal shifting global alliances

■ By Steven Sloan

WASHINGTON, Jan 24 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump gives. And he takes away.

Offended by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's increasingly assertive posture toward the US, Trump revoked an invitation to join his Board of Peace. Many Western allies are suspicious of the organisation, which is chaired by Trump and was initially formed to focus on maintaining the ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas but has grown into something sceptics fear could rival the United Nations.

Appearing at the World Economic Forum, Trump spoke of imposing tariffs on Switzerland - which he ultimately lowered - because the country's leader "rubbed me the wrong way" during a phone call. Before shelving sweeping tariffs on multiple European countries, Trump pressed Denmark to "say yes" to the US push to



"Canada lives because of the United States," Trump on Canada PM's remark "We should not allow the rise of hard powers to blind us to the fact that the power of legitimacy, integrity, and rules will remain strong - if we choose to wield it together."

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control Greenland "and we will be very appreciative. Or you can say no and we will remember," he said, imperiling the NATO alliance. Over his decades in

public life, Trump has never been one for niceties. But even by his standards, the tumult of the past week stood out because it crystallised his determina-

tion to erase the rules-based order that has governed US foreign policy - and by extension most of the Western world - since World War II.

Donald Trump's approach to a "new world order" centers on dismantling multilateral institutions in favor of a transactional, "America First" system rooted in national sovereignty, bilateral power leverage, and the pursuit of a "civilisational" reach. The President and his supporters have dismissed

Read Editorial
WEST IN TATTERS
on page 8

that approach as inefficient, overly focused on compromise and unresponsive to the needs of people contending with rapid economic change. But in its place, Trump is advancing a system that is poorly understood and could prove far less stable, (Contd on page 5)

EU chief Ursula arrives in India, to be Chief Guest at R-Day celebrations

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (IANS)

EUROPEAN Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Saturday arrived in India on a State Visit during which she, along with European Council President Antonio Luis Santos da Costa, will also be attending India's 77th Republic Day celebrations as a Chief Guest, marking a significant milestone in India-EU relations.

The European Union (EU) chief was received by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Electronics and Information Technology Jitin Prasada upon her arrival.

"Charting the next phase of the India-EU Strategic partnership. A warm welcome to the President of the European

Commission Ursula von der Leyen, on her State Visit to India. Received by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry; and Electronics and Information Technology Jitin Prasada. As the world's two largest democracies, India and the EU share a partnership rooted in mutual trust and shared values," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted on X.

Earlier in the day, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Kaja Kallas arrived in New Delhi on her first official visit, with the MEA describing the trip as timely for further strengthening the India-EU Strategic Partnership amid sustained high-level engagements between the two



Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & Information Technology Jitin Prasada receives European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in New Delhi.

(PTI)

sides. The European leaders' visit comes against the backdrop of intensified diplomatic engagement between India and the European Union, with both sides seeking to deepen cooperation amid global volatility and geopolitical uncertainty.

On Thursday, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar held an interaction with Ambassadors from EU member countries in New Delhi with the discussions focussed on the current global environment marked by instability and rapidly shifting dynamics.

EAM Jaishankar made a strong case for closer India-EU cooperation, highlighting areas where the partnership could play a stabilising global role. He said stronger ties would help "derisk

the world economy" through cooperation on resilient supply chains, reassure the international community by providing public goods such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), anti-piracy operations, and development projects, and stabilise the global order through enhanced trade, mobility, and security partnerships.

As part of their engagements, the EU leaders will call on President Droupadi Murmu and hold restricted as well as delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Modi. An India-EU Business Forum is also expected to be organised on the sidelines of the summit, reflecting the emphasis both sides place on economic cooperation and trade.

SIR rollout in remaining states soon: CEC

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (PTI)

CHIEF Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Saturday said the special intensive revision of voters' lists in the remaining States will be rolled out soon as he described "pure" electoral rolls as the bedrock of democracy.

On the eve of the Election Commission's foundation day - also celebrated as National Voters' Day -- Kumar said the revision exercise is presently being conducted "smoothly" in 12 states and Union territories.

The Chief Election

Commissioner said pure electoral rolls are the bedrock of democracy and added, "With this objective, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was initiated to ensure that every eligible elector's name is included in the electoral roll and that every ineligible name is removed." This exercise has been successfully completed in Bihar, and a 'special revision' of electoral rolls is separately underway in Assam, Kumar said. He said, "It (SIR) will soon be rolled out in the remaining states as well.

"The most compelling testa-

ment to the success of the SIR in Bihar was that not a single appeal was filed against the final electoral roll, establishing its sanctity and credibility," Kumar added. According to the Chief Election Commissioner, polls conducted on "this strong foundation" proved historic, recording the highest voter turnout since 1951 at 67.13 per cent, with women electors registering an unprecedented participation rate of 71.78 per cent.

He also emphasised the role of all electors, especially the youth, and urged them to vote

without fail and to become ambassadors of democracy.

"I call upon our young electors to lead the fight against misinformation, disinformation, and false narratives. For this, it is essential that they remain fully informed about electoral processes and the various initiatives of the Election Commission," he said. The Election Commission was established on January 25, 1950, a day before India became a republic.

For the past 16 years, the day has been celebrated as National Voters' Day.

TRUMP THREATENS CANADA with 100% tariffs over its new trade deal with China

WASHINGTON, Jan 24 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Saturday threatened to impose a 100 per cent tariff on goods imported from Canada if America's northern neighbour went ahead with its trade deal with China.

Trump said in a social media post that if Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney "thinks he is going to make Canada a Drop Off Port' for China to send goods and products into the United States, he is sorely mistaken."

While Trump has waged a trade war over the past year, Canada this month negotiated a deal to lower tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles in return for lower import taxes on Canadian farm products. Trump initially had

said that agreement was what Carney "should be doing and it's a good thing for him to sign a trade deal." Carney's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump's threat came amid an escalating war of words with Carney as the Republican president's push to acquire Greenland strained the NATO alliance. Trump had commented while in Davos, Switzerland, this week that "Canada lives because of the United States." Carney shot back that his nation can be an example that the world does not have to bend toward autocratic tendencies. Trump later revoked his invitation to Carney to join the president's "Board of Peace" that he is forming to try to resolve global conflicts.

ICC REPLACES B'DESH WITH Scotland in T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI, Jan 24 (PTI)

THE ICC on Saturday confirmed that Scotland has replaced Bangladesh in the upcoming T20 World Cup, saying the “difficult decision” was taken since it was not feasible to meet BCB’s request to shift their matches to Sri Lanka so close to the tournament.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) refused to let its team travel to India citing security concerns in the wake of Mustafizur

Rahman’s ouster from the IPL.

ICC maintained that there was no verifiable security threat to the Bangladesh national team, officials or supporters in India and it was not appropriate to amend the published event schedule.

Scotland’s entry into the tournament, starting February 7, ended the suspense over the fate of Bangladesh in the event after BCB stayed adamant in its demand and even suggested that

(Contd on page 5)