

Trump's 25% tariffs on all steel, aluminum imports go into effect

AP, WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump officially increased tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports to 25% on Wednesday, promising that the taxes would help create US factory jobs at a time when his seesawing tariff threats are jolting the stock market and raising fears of an economic slowdown.

Trump removed all exemptions from his 2018 tariffs on the metals, in addition to increasing the tariffs on aluminum from 10%. His moves, based off a February directive, are part of a broader effort to disrupt and transform global commerce.

The Republican president has separate tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, with plans to also tax imports from the European Union, Brazil and South Korea by charging "reciprocal" rates starting on April 2.

The EU announced its



White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt speaks with the media at the White House, in Washington, USA

own countermeasures on Wednesday. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that as the United States was "applying tariffs worth 28 billion dollars, we are responding with countermeasures worth 26 billion euros," or about \$28 billion.

Those measures, which cover not just steel and

aluminum products but also textiles, home appliances and agricultural goods, are due to take effect on April 1.

Canada is the largest foreign supplier of steel and aluminum to the United States and responded with its own countermeasures.

It plans to impose retaliatory tariffs of Canadian

\$29.8 billion (\$20.7 billion) starting Thursday in response to the US taxes on the metals. Canada's new tariffs would be on steel and aluminum products, as well as US goods including computers, sports equipment and water heaters worth \$14.2 billion Canadian (\$9.9 billion).

"We will not stand idly by while our iconic steel and aluminum industries are being unfairly targeted," said Canadian Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc.

Canada's new tariffs are in addition to its 25% counter tariffs on \$30 billion Canadian (\$20.8 billion) of imports from the US that were put in place on March 4 in response to other Trump import taxes that he's partially delayed by a month.

Trump told CEOs in the Business Roundtable on Tuesday that the tariffs were causing companies to

invest in US factories. The 8% drop in the S&P 500 stock index over the past month on fears of deteriorating growth appears unlikely to dissuade him, as Trump argued that higher tariff rates would be more effective at bringing back factories.

"The higher it goes, the more likely it is they're going to build," Trump told the group. "The biggest win is if they move into our country and produce jobs. That's a bigger win than the tariffs themselves, but the tariffs are going to be throwing off a lot of money to this country."

Trump on Tuesday threatened to put tariffs of 50% on steel and aluminum from Canada, but he chose to stay with the 25% rate after the province of Ontario suspended plans to put a surcharge on electricity sold to Michigan, Minnesota and New York.

Greenland's election winners push back against Trump's wish to take control of island

AP, NUUK: A party that favours a gradual path to Greenland's independence from Denmark won a surprise victory in parliamentary elections, held in the shadow of US President Donald Trump's stated goal of taking control of the island one way or another.

The centre-right Demokraatit Party has pushed back against Trump's rhetoric, saying it is for Greenlanders to decide the future of the strategically important territory, which holds large reserves of the rare earth minerals needed to make everything from mobile phones to renewable energy technology. The Arctic island is also home to a US air base and straddles strategic air and sea routes in the North Atlantic.

The result should send a clear message to Trump that Denmark is not for sale, Demokraatit leader Jens-Friederik Nielsen told Sky News.

"We don't want to be Americans. No, we don't



Electoral workers prepare to count votes during parliamentary elections in Nuuk, Greenland

want to be Danes. We want to be Greenlanders. And we want our own independence in the future. And we want to build our own country by ourselves, not with his help."

Trump has been outspoken about his desire to control Greenland, telling a joint session of Congress last week that he thought the US was going to get it "one way or the other."

Moving toward independence from Denmark

A break from Denmark wasn't on the ballot, but it was on everyone's mind. Greenland was colonised 300 years ago by Denmark, which still exercises control over foreign and defence policy.

The island of 56,000 people has been on a path toward independence since at least 2009, and the 31 lawmakers elected will shape the island's future as it debates whether the time has come to declare independence.

Three held for impersonating Amit Shah's son, offering Manipur CM post

PTI, IMPHAL: Three persons, who were recently arrested from Uttarakhand for allegedly impersonating Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son and promising several Manipur MLAs the chief ministerial post in lieu of money, were brought here, police said on Wednesday. After the imposition of the President's rule in Manipur, several legislators had received phone calls from the three accused, who allegedly identified themselves as Shah's son

Jay Shah and offered them a chief ministerial position for a sum of Rs 4 crore, a senior officer said.

"Three individuals arrested earlier in Uttarakhand were brought to Imphal by the Manipur Police, following an investigation in connection with two FIRs registered at Imphal Police Station," a police statement said.

The accused had made phone calls to several MLAs of Manipur in February, following the resignation of N Biren Singh as the chief

minister of the northeast state, it said.

"They impersonated Jay Shah, son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and had asked the MLAs for huge funds promising that they would be considered for the post of CM," the statement said.

They have been identified as Uvaish Ahmed, a native of Nidhauri Kala in Uttar Pradesh's Etah district, Gaurav Nath and Priyansu Pant. Both hail from Ghazipur in East Delhi, the Manipur Police said.

Over 2,000 children awaiting adoption, highest in WB: Govt

PTI, NEW DELHI: Over 2,000 children are awaiting adoption, with West Bengal topping the list among states, the Women and Child Development Ministry said on Wednesday. Replying to a question in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur said the majority of the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) prefer to adopt younger children (of normal health and below 6 years of age) in the designated CARINGS portal, Thakur said. "If there is availability of lesser

A total of 7.25 crore of them were measured on growth parameters of height and weight and 39.09 per cent of them have been found to be stunted, 16.60 per cent have been found to be underweight and 5.35 per cent are said to have been wasted (a child too thin for her height)

number of such children in the adoption pool, the waiting period for PAP may be higher," she said in a written response.

According to the data shared by her, 2,321 children are awaiting adoption across the country.

The highest number of such children are in West

Bengal at 309, followed by Maharashtra at 261, Odisha at 225, Bihar at 205 and Telangana at 197.

Responding to another question, Thakur said the projected population of all children up to 5 years in India for the year 2021 is 13.75 crores approximately. "However, only 7.49 crore

children up to 5 years were enrolled in anganwadis and registered on Poshan Tracker of the Ministry of Women & Child Development as per the February 2025 data," the minister said.

A total of 7.25 crore of them were measured on growth parameters of height and weight and 39.09 per cent of them have been found to be stunted, 16.60 per cent have been found to be underweight and 5.35 per cent are said to have been wasted (a child too thin for her height), she said.

In response to another

question, she said the women's helpline has been integrated with Emergency Response Support System and so far, they have handled over 2.10 crore calls and assisted over 84.43 lakh women.

She added that as of January 2025, 745 fast track special courts, including 404 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts, are operational in all states and Union territories. They have disposed of more than 3.06 lakh cases of rape and offences under POCSO Act across the country, the minister said.

FROM PAGE 1

'MY COMPANY WAS RUNNING GLOBAL ONLINE SCAMS'

However, I soon found out that my company was actually a front for scamming people all over the world. I was a trainee, so I wasn't doing anything myself, but I saw a lot of other employees involved in such work. They would target mostly US nationals between the age of 45 and 80, and start chatting with them, pretending to be women. The final goal was to get them to invest in our company. Within the KK Park area there were hundreds of such companies - all involved in online scams.

Our work timings were from midnight to 2 pm the next day, a shift of 14 hours. We had no weekly offs, but after working for 15 days, we got a half-day off; after a month, a full day off was given. We would get a break from 6 am to 8 am every day and another 30 minute recess at 11.30 am.

While we were not tortured or harassed, the feeling that we were working illegally in another country kept me constantly worried. I would speak to my parents on Whatsapp, but I did not tell them about my anxieties, since they would get worked up back home. However, the living conditions were not bad. They would change our toiletries and bedsheets every two weeks and we lived comfortably.

On February 4, we received a message that we would be rescued by army teams from both the countries. There were over 350 individuals who were rounded up from different countries, including around 120 from India. We were first taken to a camp where we were kept for 16 days till we were finally repatriated. There were also 13-14 girls from India. I reached home on Tuesday night, accompanied by a PSI from Delhi airport, who dropped me off to my house.

I was paid a one-month salary of 30,000 Kyat, which is approximately Rs 60,000. I had gone on a two-month tourist visa and a one-year contract. This meant that after two months we would end up overstaying in Myanmar. If we broke the contract, we would have to pay about \$3,600 - approximately Rs 3-4 lakh.

In Goa, I was into event management and this was my first job abroad. I now plan to join as a fourth engineer on a passenger ship. My advice to youths aspiring for jobs abroad is that they should thoroughly check the background of the recruiting agencies before signing up. I, too, had done the relevant checks, but hadn't noticed anything suspicious.

ILLEGAL QUARRYING VERY RISKY FOR DAM: GOA WRD TEAM IN TILLARI

Gawas urged authorities from both states to conduct a joint inspection and take immediate action to stop illegal quarrying in the vicinity of the dam.

Gawas also highlighted that quarrying debris had accumulated in parts of the water canal, posing a severe flooding risk during the monsoon season. He stressed that unless action is taken swiftly, the impact on Goa's water security could be devastating.

Meanwhile, residents of Khanyale in Dodamarg have intensified their protest, demanding a written assurance from authorities to halt quarrying activities. The villagers, who have been on strike for over a week, expressed disappointment with the Goa WRD officials' visit. They claimed the team inspected a different quarry and failed to visit the primary site of concern or engage with the protesters.

"The officials ignored the main quarry, where the most dangerous blasting occurs," said protester Nagraj Naik. "We won't end our strike without a clear commitment from the authorities to stop this hazardous activity."

The residents' concerns are rooted in fears of a potential landslide during the upcoming monsoon, which they believe could devastate their village. According to local resident Rajan Shetye, Khanyale's 1,200 villagers face serious risks if the damaged hill collapses. "Years of unchecked quarrying have weakened the hill. If a landslide occurs, it will wipe out our homes, fields and families," Shetye warned.

Tensions escalated when local MLA Deepak Karsarkar proposed a compromise that would allow quarrying to continue under certain conditions. Villagers rejected the suggestion, insisting that their safety was non-negotiable.

Adding to the villagers' concerns are reports of poor conditions faced by quarry labourers. Protesters claimed that over 20 workers live in makeshift shelters near the dam without proper sanitation, contributing to contamination of the canal water.

HC HALTS TREE-FELLING NEAR COURT PREMISES

In court, Adv de Sa argued that the actions could be part of a broader effort to change the zoning designation for the land. The case was brought before Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Mahesh Sonak, who were made aware of the ongoing deforestation. In response, the court passed an interim order prohibiting any further tree felling in the two survey numbers without prior approval from the Court.

The respondents in the case include the State Government, the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department, the Forest Department, the Goa State Disaster Management Authority, the North Goa Collector, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Penha de France Village Panchayat, and Penha De France Properties Pvt Ltd.

The case will return to court for further hearings in three weeks.

HC NOTICE TO RANE, DEVELOPERS OVER KARAPUR PROJECT

During the hearing, counsel for one of the respondents requested that the PIL writ petition be dismissed, citing that the petitioners had approached the media with their claims. However, the Court proceeded to issue notices to all the respondents.

The petitioners also stated that the real estate company had been granted provisional approval to subdivide the land into more than 1,300 plots, each ranging from 116 to 170 square metres.

HEAT WAVE ACROSS GOA CAUSES A SURGE IN HOSPITAL VISITS

Dr Prithi Araujo, Senior Consultant Physician at Victor Hospital in Margao, says: "These days, due to the rising temperatures in Goa, the increased humidity and excessive sweating have led to symptoms of thirst, nausea, vomiting, palpitations, fatigue, muscle cramps, and sometimes syncope attacks (fainting)." She went on to add: "People should hydrate themselves with water, cool liquids, and iced tea. They should wear lighter and more breathable clothes like cotton and linen and should eat fresh fruits and

vegetables like watermelon, cucumber, and oranges. They should avoid going out in the hot sun without a hat or an umbrella. Such preventive measures will help to prevent illnesses like electrolyte imbalance, urinary tract infections, respiratory tract infections, heat strokes, and will reduce hospital admissions."

Dr Pravin Bhat, Senior Pulmonologist with Horizon Hospital in Margao, agreed that the heat wave has been particularly severe this week. He emphasised the importance of taking precautions: "Adequate hydration, avoiding midday outings unless unavoidable, knowing heat stroke symptoms—warm body, extreme thirst, dryness of mouth, nausea, vomiting, rapid pulse and respiration, excessive sweating, less urine, feeling dizzy, convulsions, coma. Elderly people and those with medical problems and on long-term medications like diuretics should take extra care," he said.

ENT Surgeon Dr Jorson Fernandes from South Goa explained that while a heat wave occurs when temperatures exceed the average normal for that time, there are more cases of heat stress or heat exhaustion, which can be treated. He made this distinction so that people do not mistake this for heat stroke, which is a medical emergency and is not being reported that much.

"What we see in our clinics are patients under heat stress, complaining of decreased output and performance in their work. Some complain of heat exhaustion and heat stress. Many patients who are on medications or have fever, diarrhoea, or vomiting will be more vulnerable to heat exhaustion and will need admission because of dehydration," said Dr Fernandes.

Former State President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Dr Sandesh Chodankar, believes there is sufficient awareness but still encourages the public to take care. "People should hydrate themselves frequently and make sure that they drink five to six litres of water per day," said Chodankar.

Dr Brendan Perez, Pathologist and Lab Head at Pathkind Labs in Panjim, talks about a telling pattern. "There has been a steady rise in community-acquired infections due to various gatherings; however, a significant number of individuals are complaining of lethargy and tiredness. This could be attributed to the rising temperatures that would cause dehydration and heat exhaustion-related symptoms. Goa, being a relatively more humid state, tends to cause excessive sweating, thus electrolyte and fluid imbalances are anticipated. An illness as common as diarrhoea poses a significant risk of causing AKI (acute kidney injury) if the dehydration isn't corrected by drinking ORS," cautioned Dr Perez.

Dr Clarissa E De Souza, Medical Officer in North Goa, has noted a distinct increase in heat-related cases. "There is a rise in the number of cases due to the excess heat. Cases of exhaustion and cramps at work are more now. Because of unhealthy lifestyles and improper dietary habits, we already get patients with exhaustion and cramps, but of late, the heat wave has caused a rise in the above. Muscle cramps and exhaustion mostly result from electrolyte deficiencies and/or not hydrating oneself properly. The heat wave has increased the risk of these ailments," she explained.

Dr De Souza also highlighted links between the heat and other common illnesses: "When it comes to the viral flu that's going around, anything that causes a drop in the body's immunity predisposes someone to the flu, and the heat does precisely this. Coming to

urinary tract infections, dehydration, among other factors, predisposes a person to a UTI, again, caused by excess heat exposure."

Her advice is straightforward but critical: "To prevent ailments due to heat, drink at least 3-4 litres of water per day, although heart and kidney patients need to have the recommended amount of water. Have enough electrolytes, like fresh fruit juices and ORS. Limit strenuous physical activity as the heat generated can also increase the risk. Wear comfortable, cotton, breathable clothing and stay in an aerated environment. And those patients taking certain medications like diuretics must take extra precautions to ensure that they're replenishing the electrolytes lost. If one feels like they're experiencing symptoms like muscle cramps, exhaus-

tion, light-headedness/dizziness, nausea, unusually warm skin, dryness of mouth, it could be due to excessive heat... in that case, visit your nearest doctor, hydrate, and have ORS/electrolytes."

The Directorate of Health Services (DHS) has issued a public health advisory recommending hydration with water, lemon drinks, coconut water, and watery fruits, along with using head coverings and wearing light, loose clothing outdoors. The public is advised to call 108 immediately for anyone with a high body temperature who is unconscious or confused and to cool them while awaiting help.

Panjim recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2°C in the last 24 hours, with predictions of temperatures reaching 36°C on March 13 and around 35°C until March 16.

MORE OBITUARIES ON PAGE 12

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