

'A major blow to world economy'

Press Trust of India
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Sweeping new tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump provoked dismay, threats of counter-measures and urgent calls for talks to find ways to rescind the stiff new import taxes imposed on goods from countries around the globe.

But responses on Thursday were measured, highlighting a lack of appetite for an outright trade war with the world's biggest economy.

Trump said that the import taxes, ranging from 10 per cent to 49 per cent, would do to US trading partners what they have long done to the US. He maintains they will draw factories and jobs back to the US.

"Taxpayers have been ripped off for more than 50 years," he said. "But it is not going to happen anymore."

EU RESPONDS

Trump's announcement of a new 20 per cent tariff on the European Union drew a sharp rebuke from European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who said it was a "major blow to the world economy".

"The consequences will be dire for millions of people around the globe," von der Leyen said. Groceries, trans-



TRUMP CARD. US President Donald Trump announcing the tariffs at the White House in Washington DC. BLOOMBERG

port and medicines will cost more, she said while visiting Uzbekistan. "And this is hurting, in particular, the most vulnerable citizens." Von der Leyen held off, however, from announcing new retaliatory steps and underlined that the EU was ready to negotiate with the US.

China's Commerce Ministry said Beijing would "resolutely take countermeasures to safeguard its own rights and interests," without saying exactly what it might do. With earlier rounds of tariffs, China reacted by imposing higher duties on US exports of farm products, while limiting exports of minerals used for hi-tech industries such as electric vehicles.

Outgoing German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the EU won't be able to limit itself to saying the tariffs are damaging — "we must show that we have strong muscles". He added: "But

this is with the aim of an agreement because that is the best for prosperity in the US, Europe and for the world."

WILL REACT: UK

British Prime Minister Kier Starmer said the UK government would react with "cool and calm heads," telling business leaders in London that he hopes to get the tariffs lifted with a trade deal. "Nobody wins in a trade war, that is not in our national interest," Starmer said.

Japan, America's closest ally in Asia, plans to closely analyse the US tariffs and their impact, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said, while refraining from talk of retaliation.

South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo told officials to work with business groups to analyse the impact of the new 25 per cent tariff to "minimise damage," the Trade Ministry said.