



TRUMP 2.0 MAVERICK DON RETURNS

World braces for 4 years of unpredictability

NEW YORK, 20 JAN

In the weeks between his phenomenal electoral victory and swearing-in as the 47th President of the US, the world got a preview of what a second Donald Trump presidency will entail – both for itself and America.

Trump talked about making Canada the 51st state of the US, suggested taking control of Greenland and the Panama Canal and floated the idea of changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America – all this before he was sworn in as American President on 20 January.

With Trump set to take the oath of office in the United States Capitol Rotunda on Monday, the world appears to be fastening its seat belt as it gets ready for four more years of a tumultuous and unpredictable Trump presidency.

Trump, the oldest person in US history to be elected president, has gone from being a businessman, real estate tycoon and reality TV star to becoming the country's first former US President to be declared a convicted felon.

And after surviving two assassination bids during his 2024 campaign, the 78-year-old remained unstoppable with American voters giving him a second term.

From the time he left office after his loss in the 2020 presidential election to his nomination as the Republican candidate in the 2024 race, Trump continued to dominate the American news cycle and the country's psyche.

He refused to accept the November 2020 result that brought Joe Biden to the White House, and a stunned nation watched his supporters storm the US Capitol on January 6. The riots disrupted a joint session of the US Congress which was in the process of affirming the presidential election results.

His third run for the job in 2024 was characterised by a slew of indictments and criminal cases, and a conviction in a New York court – making him the first former US president to be held guilty of a crime.



President Trump with First Lady Melania

PHOTO: X

A grand jury found him guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records. The Biden-Harris campaign said at the time that no one is above the law while Trump called the verdict the result of a "rigged" political system.

Just days before his swearing-in, Trump was sentenced to no punishment at all in his hush money case, with Judge Juan Merchan giving him an unconditional discharge.

Throughout all this, his ardent supporters have rallied behind him and his policies, including on the economy and immigration.

The 2024 election took place against the backdrop of concerns over the economy, illegal immigration and the wars in west Asia and Europe. Trump's support base saw him as the only one who could offer solutions to these.

"I will end the illegal immigration crisis by closing our border and finishing the wall, most of which I've already built," Trump told cheering supporters at his party's national convention, referring to the country's southern border.

Trump has also vowed that if he returned to the White House, "inflation will vanish completely".

Trump pledged to end the Russia-Ukraine war after Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reached out to congratulate him on his Republican presidential nomination.

The four years of his second presidency will define not just how the US deals with its pressing domestic issues, it will also dictate its place in the world. The world is watching and gearing up. —PTI



Migrant families prepare for mass deportations

MIAMI, 20 JAN

Parents around Nora Sandigo's large, rectangular dining table had lunch before signing documents to make the Nicaraguan immigrant a legal guardian of their children, entrusting them to her if they are deported. She gave a list of what to carry with them: birth certificates, medical and school records, immigration documents, her phone number.

"Talk to your children and tell them what can happen, let them have my phone number on hand, let them learn it, let them record it," Sandigo said Sunday.

For the group at Sandigo's southwest Miami home and for millions in the United States illegally or with temporary legal status, the start of Donald Trump's second term as president on Monday comes with a feeling that their time in the US may end soon. Trump made mass deportations a signature issue of his campaign and has promised a raft of first-day orders to remake immigration policy.

"You don't have to be afraid, you have to be prepared," Sandigo told the group of about 20 people, including small children, who watched a demonstration of how to respond if immigration officers knock

on their door. "Take precautions wherever you are."

Sandigo, who came to the US in 1988, has volunteered to be guardian for more than 2,000 children in 15 years, including at least 30 since December. A notary was on hand on Sunday.

Plans for deportation arrests appeared to be in flux after news leaked of an operation in Chicago this week. Trump's "border czar" Tom Homan said on Fox News on Sunday that Chicago was "not off the table, but we're reconsidering when and how we do it."

So-called sanctuary cities, which limit how local police cooperate with federal immigration authorities, have been a favourite Trump target, especially Chicago. Reports that his initial push would be in the nation's third-largest city brought a new sense of urgency and fear.

Chicago became a sanctuary city in the 1980s and has beefed up policies since, including after Trump first took office in 2017. Last week, the City Council heartily rejected a long-shot plan calling for exceptions allowing local police to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on deportation cases for people accused or convicted of crimes. —PTI



LOOMING ERA OF GLITTER

Bitcoin soars past \$1,00,000 ahead of early action

WASHINGTON, 20 JAN:

The price of bitcoin surged to over USD 109,000 early on Monday, just hours ahead of President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, as a pumped up cryptocurrency industry bets he will take action soon after returning to the White House.

Once a skeptic who said a few years ago that bitcoin "seems like a scam", Trump has embraced digital currencies with a convert's zeal. He has launched a new cryptocurrency venture and vowed on the campaign trail to take

steps early in his presidency to make the US the "crypto capital" of the world.

His promises include creating a US crypto stockpile, enacting industry-friendly regulations and even appointing a crypto "czar" for his administration. "You're going to be very happy with me," Trump told crypto-enthusiasts at a bitcoin conference last summer.

Bitcoin is the world's most popular cryptocurrency and was created in 2009 as a kind of electronic cash uncontrolled by banks or governments. It, and newer forms of



PHOTO: PIXABAY

Scam to czar
Trump's leap of faith
on cryptocurrency

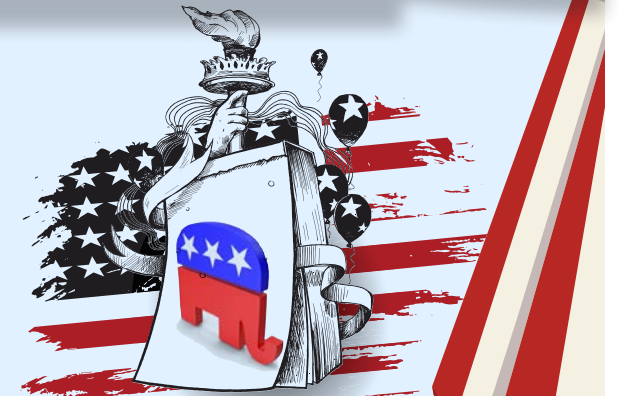
cryptocurrencies have moved from the financial fringes to the mainstream in wild fits and starts.

The highly volatile nature of cryptocurrencies as well as their use by criminals, scammers and rogue nations, has

attracted plenty of critics, who say the digital currencies have limited utility and often are just Ponzi schemes.

Trump promised that he would create a special advisory council to provide guidance on creating "clear" and "straightforward" regulations on crypto within the first 100 days of his presidency.

Details about the council and its membership are still unclear, but after winning November's election, Trump named tech executive and venture capitalist David Sacks to be the administration's crypto "czar." —PTI



WHAT'S NEXT?

MASSIVE FEDERAL LAYOFFS

- President Donald Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is gearing up to trim federal workforce
- DOGE will operate "outside the government"
- The entity may try to operate as an independent, non-governmental organisation



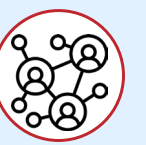
LARGEST DEPORTATION IN US HISTORY

- Trump may sign executive orders and actions targeting millions of immigrants and their families
- The second Trump administration is likely to conduct the largest deportation in US history
- The new administration may also dismantle asylum protection system



PROMISES TO ANNEX CANADA AND MEXICO

- Trump wants countries like Canada and Mexico to become a part of US to continue enjoying subsidies
- Trump is unhappy with the \$40B American trade deficit in bilateral trade with Canada
- Trump wants to stop illegal immigrants from Mexico intruding into the US, even through Canada



EYES ON GREENLAND AND PANAMA CANAL

- Trump is outlining an aggressive foreign policy with little regard to diplomatic considerations or the concerns of US allies
- The President does not rule out military or economic action to regain control of the Panama Canal and Greenland
- He has threatened Denmark with tariffs if it resisted his offer to purchase Greenland for US national security



ENDING RUSSIA-UKRAINE, ISRAEL-GAZA WARS

- Trump wants to wrap up the Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Palestine conflicts by forcing the combatants to make significant compromises
- Trump may force Ukraine and Russia to mutually agree on a give and take solution on territories
- He has said ending Ukraine and Russia would be "more difficult" to resolve than the current Israeli Palestinian conflict



US EXIT FROM NATO

- Trump wants to withdraw the US from NATO, raising worries among national security officials
- In 2024, President Joe Biden signed into law that any presidential decision to exit NATO must have either two-thirds Senate approval or be authorised through an act of Congress
- Trump could sidestep this NATO guardrail using presidential authority over foreign policy



ABOLISHING 'CITIZENSHIP BY BIRTH'

- Trump has promised to end birthright citizenship, besides restricting immigration
- The US grants citizenship to children born within its borders, regardless of the citizenship of its parents
- Trump and his supporters have argued that the system is being abused



LIFT CLIMATE REGULATIONS

- The Republican President has often called climate change a scam and made public plans to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement once more
- Trump may loosen regulations on industries such as oil, gas and petrochemicals
- There is also possibility of rollbacks to President's Biden's climate laws



TO STOP 'TRANSGENDER LUNACY'

- Trump has pledged to stop the "transgender lunacy" from day one of his second presidency
- Trump has declared that he would make it the "official policy" to recognise only two genders – male and female
- The US President said he would sign executive orders to end child sexual mutilation, get transgender out of the military and out of elementary, middle and high schools



