# **India-US trade potential**

## Why in news?

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- Indian PM is about to visit USA as a 3 day visit from 25<sup>th</sup> June, to effectively engage in mutually beneficial talks.
- The US administration needs to recognize and address India's concerns about American trade policy.

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### What are the concerns of India's trade?

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- Key US concerns with India's trade environment include the bilateral deficit and, by extension, trade barriers such as tariffs on goods and enforcement of intellectual property rights.
- The desire for access to more H-1B visas, New Delhi is concerned with the inward orientation of the US under Trump.
- India will focus on the US, absolving itself of any responsibility to make requisite policy changes which Washington believes rests on the shoulders of other nations.

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#### How could India address the concerns?

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- India could address a number of US concerns by extending the application of good governance principles.
- Each side should operate on more comprehensive knowledge and a greater appreciation of prevailing situations and trends.
- the issue thus is not to have a general focus on trade policy, but to identify and direct efforts at particular items with high tariffs, or those non-tariff measures that are not yet subject to reform.
- $\bullet$  The demand from India's growing middle class is slated to become the second-largest in the world within 10 years. \n
- $\bullet$  This increase would create significant opportunity for US trade and employment.  $\ensuremath{\backslash n}$
- India's concerns regarding US trade policies will need to be addressed to improve the possibility of mutually beneficial access to India's markets.

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## What is the way forward?

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 To get better access to this growing demand, a larger focus has to be on regulatory coherence and cooperation, and conditions affecting investment.

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 This trade progress may be aimed at methods that range from soft legal results such as guidelines, to hard law such as tariff decreases in key products.

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- This could be facilitated by agreeing on innovative methods that combine flexibilities with discipline and provide relief in times of import surges, a concern reflected in both countries.
- This would be needed more for results embodying hard law, rather than soft law.
- India and the US could show significant results by establishing a common platform to address specific concerns in areas that require administrative

solutions or better information flows between the two.  $\ensuremath{^{\backslash n}}$ 

 Focusing on possible solutions that are more within reach, while continuing efforts to address the major concerns, is more likely to create better opportunities and more win-win situations for both India and the US.

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**Source: Live Mint** 

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