US proposes 25% tariffs on India

17 per cent if trade deal clinched

■ **By Sagar Kulkarni**
WASHINGTON, Nov 25 (PTI)

THE US on Wednesday proposed 25 per cent tariffs on Indian goods in the absence of a trade deal, citing excess industrial capacity, sustained market access barriers and inadequate labour protection that harm American companies.

The US Trade Representative (USTR) said the tariffs on India would amount to 17 per cent if it agrees to a trade deal with America. The fresh tariff proposal follows Section 301 investigations launched by the USTR in March targeting 16 economic jurisdictions.



The USTR proposed tariffs of up to 20 per cent to 35 per cent on other targeted economies, though lower rates apply to trading partners with deals in place.

The EU, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Switzerland face 15 per cent tariff rates, inclusive of standard import

(Contd on page 5)

India committed to early conclusion of US trade pact; rejects excess capacity charge

NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (PTI)

THE Government on Wednesday said the country is committed to working closely with the US for an early conclusion of a bilateral trade agreement, while rejecting Washington's allegation of having structural excess manufacturing capacity. The Commerce Ministry, in a statement, said that, India engaged constructively throughout this investigation. In response to the Notice of Initiation and in subsequent proceedings, the Department of Commerce stated that India does not have structural excess capacity in any sector. "Government of India remains committed to working closely with the US towards the early conclusion of the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement," it said.

India, China hold talks on LAC issues, border management: MEA

NEW DELHI, Nov 25 (PTI)

THE Indian and Chinese armies held high-level talks this month in the Arunachal Pradesh sector focusing on border management and addressing outstanding issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The talks, believed to have spread over a number of days, were held amid reports of aggressive military posturing by Chinese troops along the frontier, especially in the Upper Subansiri region of Arunachal Pradesh. In September too, the senior military commanders of the two armies were engaged in flag talks in two sessions on both sides of the frontier in the Arunachal Pradesh sector.

"India and China engage regularly through diplomatic and military mechanisms and you are well aware of those mechanisms," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his regular media briefing while responding to a question.

"A meeting of the senior military commanders was held in the eastern sector recently. Discussions between the two sides focused on improving border management as well as addressing outstanding issues along the LAC," he said.

Jaiswal said such interactions are aimed at maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas and preventing any escalation.

Lt Gen Girish Kalia, General Officer Commanding of the Army's III Corps headquartered near Dimapur in Nagaland, led the Indian delegation at the talks in the second week of this month, while the Chinese side was led by his counterpart.

In the military and diplomatic talks, India has been conveying to the Chinese side the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the frontier regions for the continued development and progress of the overall bilateral relationship.

Bangladesh raises garment workers' minimum wage by 36% after protests

DHAKA, Nov 25 (PTI)

BANGLADESH raised the minimum monthly wage for garment workers by 36 per cent to USD 136 from USD 100 after weeks of widespread protests by workers that shut factories and disrupted production, authorities said.

Bangladesh, the world's second-largest garment exporter after China, has seen violent protests by workers demanding higher pay since October. The decision was reached early Wednesday after a marathon 12-hour meeting at the Minimum Wage Board office, which began at 2 pm on Tuesday and ended around 2 am on Wednesday. The six-member board decided on the new minimum wage through a vote after representatives of factory owners and workers failed to reach a consensus. The Minimum Wage Board has fixed the minimum monthly wage for workers in Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) industry at Tk 17,000 (USD 136), up 36 per cent from the existing Tk 12,500 (USD 100).

Cabinet okays Rs 11,000 cr to promote domestic manufacturing

■ Delhi Bureau and Agencies
NEW DELHI, Nov 25

THE Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the "Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Manufacturing Ecosystem" with a financial outlay of Rs 11,000 crore.

The scheme aims to promote domestic manufacturing of construction and infrastructure equipment ecosystem in India, supporting the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.'

To be implemented by the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), the scheme aims to incentivise domestic manufacturing of CIE and its components and to establish a dedicated CIE testing facility in the country, thereby enhancing self-reliance and positioning India as a key player in the Global CIE market, according to a Cabinet statement.

CABINET DECISIONS

The scheme has a duration of eight years from FY2026-27, comprising a two-year gestation period (FY2026-27 to FY2027-28) for setting up manufacturing facilities, followed by a five-year incentive disbursement period (FY2028-29 to FY2032-33), and a final year (FY2033-34) for settlement of incentives on incremental sales of FY2032-33.

Construction of new airport at Silchar for Rs 2,014 crore

The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to construct a new airport at Doloo in Silchar, Assam, with an estimated cost of Rs 2,014 crore. The existing Silchar airport, owned by the Indian Air Force and the Airports Authority of India (AAI), operates a civil enclave spread over 70 acres.

Briefing the media after Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the airport will have the capacity to handle 800 passengers during peak hours and the annual passenger handling capacity will be 1.01 million.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 2,014 crore and will be fully funded by AAI through its own internal resources.

Vaishnaw said the airport will provide connectivity to Barak Valley and the adjoining north-eastern region and help promote tourism.

The project was approved by the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Trump slaps new tariffs on 14 nations, India faces addl 17%

Rate Can Rise To 25% If Trade Deal Not Signed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Setting the stage for additional duty burden on exports, the US Trade Representative on Wednesday proposed 17% additional tariffs on Indian goods, which can rise to 25% if the bilateral trade deal is not signed.

Citing the findings of its Section 301 probe against 16 countries for alleged structural excess capacity, the Trump administration has proposed additional levies of 15-20% against 14 offending countries, with the developed nations at the lower end of the band and China, Vietnam and Singapore at the top. The move, though not surprising, creates fresh complications for exporters with two important exports from India, pharma and mobile phones, exempted from additional tariffs.

▶Exporters brace for fresh uncertainty, P 14

While most developing countries are in the 18% bracket, India has a one-percentage-point "comparative advantage", provided the first tranche of the agreement which was finalised last Feb is signed by the time the final hearings are completed and tariffs are announced. With the hearings scheduled on Jan 25, 2027, the fresh levies are likely to kick in next Feb. In India's case, the probe flagged PLI schemes as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat push and sector-specific acts, policies and practices in the steel, solar, health and ICT sectors.

▶Trade negotiations, P 14

MOVE LIKELY TO LAND IN US COURTS

WHERE INDIA STANDS — Additional Tariff (%)



INDIA'S TARIFF TIMELINE

Period	Tariff	Type Of Tariff
Aug 27, 2025 to Feb 23, 2026	MFN+ 50%	Reciprocal tariffs
Feb 24 – July 24, 2026	MFN+10%	Sec 122 (BOP#)
July 24, 2026 onwards	MFN+10%	Sec 301: Forced labour
Feb 2027 onwards	MFN+7%*	Sec 301

MFN: Most favoured nation rate, which applies to all countries
*If India, US sign trade deal and USTR issues final tariffs #Balance of payments

Govt rejects structural excess capacity charge

New Delhi: Govt on Wednesday rejected charges of structural excess capacity in any sector, and said it will work with US for early conclusion of a bilateral trade agreement. "India and the US are engaged in negotiations for a BTA. It has been India's position that any trade-related concerns should be addressed within the framework of these negotiations," govt said, adding it was examining the USTR notice.

While India and US had announced an agreement on Feb 2, agreeing to 18% additional tariff, it had to be suspended due to the reciprocal tariffs being junked by US Supreme Court.

Govt officials have said that the agreement has largely been finalised and will be sealed once the US tariff framework is ready. TNN

Make in India: ₹11,000cr for infra equipment

New Delhi: Cabinet Wednesday approved a Rs 11,000 crore scheme to boost domestic manufacturing of construction and infrastructure equipment, reduce import dependence and minimise risks from global supply chain disruptions.

Separately, the fertiliser department cleared six new brownfield urea plants involving an estimated investment of Rs 54,000 crore to strengthen domestic production and insulate agriculture from external shocks, reports **Dipak Dash**.

Announcing the decision, I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said rapid infrastructure development had increased demand for construction equipment, making it necessary for India to become self-reliant. The country needs around Rs 1 lakh crore worth of such equipment, he said. PM Modi described the scheme as a "big push towards India becoming a global hub for construction and infrastructure equipment manufacturing".

The Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Manufacturing Ecosystem will incentivise production of advanced equipment such as ship-to-shore cranes, tunnel boring machines, hydraulic excavators and off-highway trucks. It will run for eight years from the current financial year, with a two-year gestation period for setting up manufacturing facilities, followed by five years of incentive disbursement.