

US-India Bilateral trade policy

Why in news?

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India recently raised few concerns in US-India bilateral Trade Policy Forum (TPF).

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What are the significance recent of Indo-US trade ties?

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- India has started buying crude oil from the US, and expected to buy more in coming years.

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- There is great potential for the United States in the fast expanding aviation market in India.

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- Indian aviation companies such as Spice jet and Jet Airways have placed orders for over 300 aircraft worth several billions of dollars.

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- As American companies shift their manufacturing base from China to the US, this would also result in more American export to India.

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What are the matters regarding Visa discussed in this forum?

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- India “very strongly” raised the issue of H-1B and L1 visas with the US.

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- The US has tightened the norms for issuing the most sought-after H-1B and L1 visas. Click [here](#) to know more about H1-B visas

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- This in line with the Trump administration’s goal to protect American

workers from discrimination and replacement by foreign labour.

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- It more difficult for the renewal of H-1B and L1, popular among Indian IT professionals, saying that the burden of proof lies on the applicant even when an extension is sought.

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- Under the current US rules, Indian IT professionals working in the US on H-1B visas do not get back their hard-earned contribution to Social Security, which runs into at least more than USD 1 billion per annum.

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What are the matters of trade discussed in the forum?

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- Taking note of America's concern on price controls on medical devices, India encouraged US companies to take benefit of the "Make in India" policy.

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- USA and India have agreed to address the issue of trade deficit by increasing and diversifying bilateral trade.

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- The two countries have agreed to work on the issue of poultry, pork and intellectual property rights.

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- In this meeting India have yielded positive results in removal of barriers in export of Indian mangoes to the US.

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- Earlier it was tough because of the irradiation procedure adopted by the US, which not only makes its very expensive, but is also time consuming.

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- India has sought cooperation from the US on certain technology sectors like artificial intelligence, electric vehicles and aviation.

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Source: Business Line

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