

CONFIDENTIAL

U.S.-India Summit Report

February 14, 2025

TOPLINE

- The two sides commit to negotiating the “first tranche” of a multi-sector **Bilateral Trade Initiative (BTI)** by fall 2025.
- The BTI and other key drivers will fall under a new framework, the “**US-India COMPACT**” **initiative**, launched to boost defense, trade, and technology cooperation.
- The leaders announced “Mission 500”- a target of **doubling bilateral trade** (goods and services) to \$500 billion by 2030.
- Per the joint statement, the U.S. would focus on expanding **exports of industrial goods to India**, while India would focus on **expanding exports of labor-intensive goods to the United States**.
- The leaders “resolved to work together to counter **the common challenge of unfair practices in export controls** by third parties seeking to exploit overconcentration of critical supply chains.”
- Other commercial announcements included facilitating **immigration, hydrocarbons, cooperation on artificial intelligence, critical minerals, undersea cables**, and more.
- A range of **announcements on strategic cooperation** were featured including defense production, military interoperability, and civilian nuclear trade.

Coming just weeks after President Trump’s inauguration, and with critical roles across the U.S. government unfilled, expectations for the aspirations of the summit were mixed. Looking at the many announcements encompassed in the [Joint Statement](#), the fact that the two leaders have a solid history of working together was evident. India somewhat dodged a bullet with President Trump’s [“Fair and Reciprocal Plan” on Trade](#) announced earlier the same day—while specific Indian trade policies were noted, no reciprocal tariffs were introduced.

Prime Minister Modi had bilateral meetings with several Trump Administration officials including Elon Musk, National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, and Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard earlier in the day. Prime Minister Modi had also met with Vice President J.D. Vance in Paris earlier in the week.

India’s pre-emptive move to lower tariffs on certain goods as part of its February 1 Budget helped to warm the atmosphere. These policy moves were noted in the Joint Statement. Prime Minister Modi did not offer any other specific trade policy remedies as part of the Joint Statement, but India did catalog multiple Indian investments into the United States.

The governments have a lot to execute this year. Several announcements included in the Joint Statement such as the Bilateral Trade Initiative talks are to be concluded by the end of the year.

Unsurprisingly, cooperation on decarbonization was not mentioned. And U.S. support for India’s manufacturing modernization was de-prioritized compared to the Biden Administration.

There is no clarity on the broader architecture for engagement in the coming years; the U.S.-India Energy Security Partnership and INDUs-X (rebranded as INDUS Innovation) were referenced, but nothing on the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), the 2+2 Ministerial, the U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum, the U.S.-India CEO Forum, or the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue. So, it remains unclear which formal bilateral channels companies can channel commercial policy concerns.