

# I think we'll have a deal soon: Trump on trade talks with India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York/Washington, 30 April

US President Donald Trump said negotiations with India over a bilateral trade deal were “coming along great” and he thought Washington would “have a deal” with New Delhi.

Trump made the remarks on Tuesday while speaking to reporters before departing from White House for a rally in Michigan marking the first 100 days of his second administration.

“India is coming along great. I think we’ll have a deal with India,” said the President. “The Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) as you know was here three weeks ago, and they want to make a deal. We’ll see what happens,” he added.

Prime Minister Modi visited the White House in late February.

Earlier in the day, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told reporters in the White

House that the US is “very close” to a trade deal with India.

He said that America’s Asian trading partners and allies “have been the most forthcoming in terms of doing the deals”. He spoke about Vice-President JD Vance’s India visit last week. “I think that he and (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi made some very good progress. So I could see some announcements on India,” Bessent added that he can also see the contours of a deal with South Korea coming together and substantial talks with Japan.

Responding to a question on the timeline for a trade deal, he said, “I think

that we are very close on India and ... India, in a funny way, is easier to negotiate with (than) many other countries because they have very high tariffs and lots of tariffs. So it’s much easier to confront the direct tariffs when as we go through these unfair trade deals that have been put in over decades, that the non-tariff trade barriers can be much more insidious and also harder to detect.”

“So a country like India, which has posted and ready tariffs, it is much easier to negotiate with them,” he said, adding that negotia-

tions with New Delhi are “moving well”.

After Vance’s India visit, a statement from his office welcomed significant progress in the negotiations for a US-India BTA. It also formally announced the finalisation of the Terms of Reference for the negotiations, laying down a road map for further discussions about the shared economic priorities.

According to the statement, the BTA presents an opportunity to negotiate a new and modern trade agreement focused on promoting job creation and citizen well-being in both countries.

**“INDIA IS COMING ALONG GREAT... THE PM (NARENDRA MODI) AS YOU KNOW WAS HERE THREE WEEKS AGO, AND THEY WANT TO MAKE A DEAL. WE’LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS”**

**DONALD TRUMP, US PRESIDENT**

