

Tesla team meets senior govt officials, to consider manufacturing in India

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New Delhi

Global electric vehicle (EV) giant Tesla is revisiting its plans to set up a factory in India, to manufacture for both domestic and export markets, and has not asked the Indian government to consider a duty cut, sources privy to the development said.

A senior leadership team from Tesla met top government officials here on Wednesday, but the company did not discuss lowering import tax on electric cars, the sources said.

"They had approached for a meeting, and it was largely around Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US next month, during which Tesla founder Elon Musk is also likely to meet him," a senior government official told *businessline*.

The Prime Minister will go to the US on a State visit on June 22 following an invitation from President Joe Biden.

The US and India last month announced an initiative on critical and emerging technology, a plan to share advanced defence and computing technology, including the joint production

of General Electric jet engines.

The Indian government had not accepted Tesla's earlier proposal seeking duty cuts, to promote domestic manufacturing. "Now, we do not know whether they are coming with the same proposal or bringing another proposal," the official said.

Last year, Musk had said that the company, which was earlier seeking a reduction in import duties to sell its EVs in India, would not manufacture its products unless it is allowed to first sell and service its cars in the country.