

# India, US need to work together to lower tariffs: US Ambassador

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India and the United States (US) should work together to lower tariffs to increase trade and make it fair and equal, US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said on Thursday.

Garcetti also called India the “highest tariff” major economy in the world.

“... We need together to lower tariffs, not to see them go up. We need together to increase trade and to make it more fair and equal. We need to together make sure that there’s training and talent that meets the needs of companies on both sides of the Indo Pacific,” Garcetti said at an industry event organised by the US-India Business Council (USIBC).

He also said that despite the difficulties on both sides, the India-US bilateral trade has witnessed a 10-fold increase.

“... I think that as you hear, as recently

as yesterday, President-elect Trump talked about trade and how tariffs need to be done fairly, let us have honest conversations. I think it’s helpful for us to speak bluntly, but let us use that as a starting point to negotiate much more deeply than we do,” he said.

The US is working on its commitment to open a Consulate in Bengaluru next month, Garcetti said. The US had earlier announced that it will open two new consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad.

Earlier this week, Trump claimed that New Delhi charges a “lot of tariff”, and warned to impose reciprocal tariffs. Trump’s latest comment came in weeks after he vowed to hike tariffs on imported goods from Mexico, Canada and China. Trump’s commerce secretary pick Howard Lutnick said “reciprocity” is something that is going to be a key topic for the Trump administration.

## Govt may offer tariff cuts on some products

The government is preparing to offer tariff cuts on some farm and other goods mainly imported from the United States (US), aiming to clinch a broader trade and investment deal once president-elect Donald Trump takes charge, sources in New Delhi said. To tackle Trump’s threat of a “reciprocal tax” on Indian goods for high tariffs, some officials of the commerce ministry are ready to consider cuts on certain products such as pork, a senior government source said. **REUTERS**