

Modi, Vance welcome progress in bilateral trade agreement

WAY AHEAD. US V-P visit crucial as India looks for an early deal to avoid reciprocal tariffs

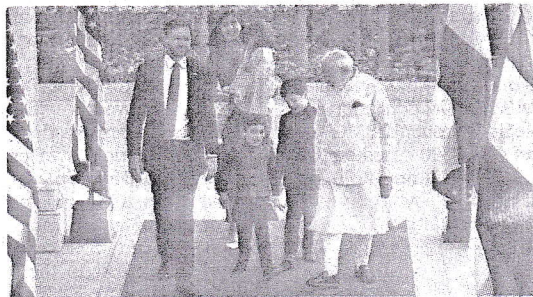
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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US Vice-President JD Vance discussed the progress in the ongoing India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement talks and efforts to enhance cooperation in energy, defence and strategic technologies in their meeting in New Delhi on Monday.

Vance is in India on a four-day official visit with his wife Usha Vance, three children and senior members of the US government. He is scheduled to visit Jaipur and Agra after his meeting with Modi.

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office after the meeting said: "They welcomed the significant progress in the negotiations for a mutually beneficial India-US BTA focused on the welfare of the people of the two countries. Likewise, they noted continued efforts towards enhancing cooperation in energy, defence, strategic technologies and other areas."

The two leaders also exchanged views on various regional and global issues of



WARM RECEPTION. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomes US Vice-President JD Vance, Second Lady Usha Vance and their children at his official residence ANI

mutual interest, and called for dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward, the statement added.

Vance's visit is particularly important as India is engaged in urgent discussions with the US to arrive at an 'early tranche' of the BTA to convince the Trump government not to impose reciprocal tariffs of 26 per cent on the country on July 9.

PAUSE IN TARIFFS

While the reciprocal tariffs were announced on April 2, US President Donald Trump paused it for 90 days to give time to countries to work out

trade deals with the US.

A delegation of top officials from India will travel to Washington DC this week to meet their US counterparts for trade dialogue. India also wants the US to roll back the 10 per cent baseline tariffs imposed on almost all imports this month.

The US continued to be India's top export destination in FY25 with exports of \$86.51 billion contributing to over 19 per cent of the country's exports. India's imports from the US were at \$45.33 billion. "Prime Minister fondly recalled his visit to Washington DC in January

and his fruitful discussions with President Trump, which laid down the roadmap for close cooperation between India and the US, leveraging the strengths of Make America Great Again (MAGA) and Viksit Bharat 2047," the statement noted.

DEEPENING TIES

In a post on social media platform X on Monday, MEA Spokesperson

Randhir Jaiswal noted that the official visit (April 21-24) spanning Delhi, Jaipur and Agra is expected to further deepen the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership.

After being received at the airport by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday morning, Vance and his family went to visit the Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple and shopped at the government-run Cottage Emporium.

Vance will next travel to Jaipur, where he will address a gathering and attend to some private events. The Vice-President and his family will visit Agra on Wednesday and leave the country on early Thursday morning.