

# MODITO VISIT US IN FEBRUARY

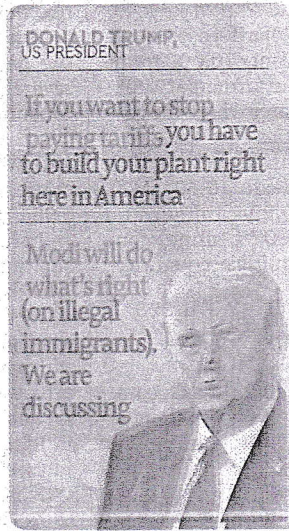
## Drugs, steel to run into US tariff wall

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New Delhi, January 28

US PRESIDENT DONALD Trump on Monday clubbed India with China and Brazil, calling them "high-tariff countries", and said his administration would very soon be putting tariffs on clutch of products, including pharmaceuticals, aluminium and steel, which are items of export interest to India.

"In the very near future we are going to be placing tariffs on foreign production of computer chips, semiconductors and pharmaceuticals to return production of these essential goods to the US," he said addressing his Republican house members in Florida. "China is a tremendous tariff maker, and India, Brazil and so many other countries. So we're not going to let that happen any longer because we're going to put America first," he said.

This is for the first time he has specifically mentioned a tar-



iff action being contemplated against India after assuming office, though he had spoken about New Delhi's "high tariffs" several times earlier, including at the hustings.

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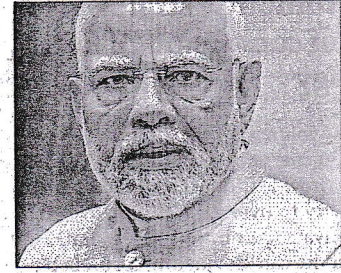
"WE'RE GOING TO put tariffs on outside countries and outside people that really mean harm to us. Well, they mean us harm, but they basically want to make their country good," Trump said.

Separately, Trump, who had a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day, said India "will do what's right" on the deportation of illegal migrants. The two leaders discussed immigration, security issues and trade in what was a "productive call", the White House said in a statement. Trump also told reporters Modi was likely to visit the US "sometime in February".

While India's external affairs ministry said Trump and Modi discussed bilateral relationships, "including in the areas of technology, trade, investment, energy and defence", the White House stressed that India should step up its procurement of defence equipment from the US, while moving towards a "fair" bilateral trade relationship. In a post on X, Modi called Trump a "dear friend" and said the two were "committed to a mutually beneficial and trusted partnership".

Trump has announced a clutch of immigration-related executive orders in recent days, in keeping with his plan to deport undocumented migrants in the US.

Pew Research Center estimated that 725,000 undocumented Indian



immigrants in the US as of 2024. India has made it clear that it would take back Indians overstaying anywhere in the world as long as their documents were shared and nationality was verified.

The US is the biggest foreign market for Indian pharmaceutical producers with a total share of 38.8% in the medicines imported by the country. In April-November 2024, India exported drug formulations worth \$5.8 billion to the US. In 2023-24, pharma exports to the US were \$8 billion.

In April-November 2024, steel and steel product exports to the US were \$2.3 billion and aluminium products exports stood at \$516 million. In his first presidency also in 2018 Trump had imposed additional tariffs on imports of steel and aluminium from all countries, including India. In retaliation, India imposed a similar amount of duties on some US products.