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## India Responds to 25% U.S. Tariff Hike on Exports, Seeks Balanced Trade Dialogue

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The Indian government has expressed concern over the United States’ decision to impose a 25 percent tariff on a wide range of Indian goods, starting today. The move, which comes amid ongoing global trade tensions, is expected to impact key export sectors including textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, and gems and jewelry.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry described the decision as “regrettable,” emphasizing that it was taken without prior consultation. India stated that it is reviewing the tariff impact and will evaluate all appropriate responses under international trade rules.

The United States government said the tariff adjustment is part of a broader realignment of trade relationships. Officials cited long-standing concerns over market access, regulatory practices, and India’s energy and defense partnerships, including its continued engagement with Russia.

Experts estimate that the new tariffs could affect Indian exports worth billions of dollars annually. Industry groups such as the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have called for targeted government support to help affected businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises.

While the Indian rupee saw a marginal dip following the announcement, financial markets remained broadly stable. Trade analysts noted that India’s diversified export base could help cushion the impact, although some sectors are likely to face short-term pressure.

A senior official from the Ministry of External Affairs said that India remains committed to constructive engagement with the U.S. and hopes to resolve the issue through diplomatic and trade channels. The government is also reviewing possible steps at the World Trade Organization (WTO), should formal consultations fail.

“We value our economic relationship with the United States,” the official added in a report. “However, it is important that trade measures be balanced, transparent, and fair.”

India and the U.S. have seen significant growth in trade volumes in recent years, with bilateral goods and services trade exceeding USD 190 billion in 2024. Despite occasional trade disputes, both countries have maintained dialogue on broader economic cooperation, technology partnerships, and supply chain resilience.