

THE REAL DEAL**Even a limited trade agreement between India and the U.S. is some distance away**

After the backslapping bonhomie and high of Houston, it was time for a reality check in New York. Contrary to expectations that were consciously generated and managed by both sides, India and the United States failed to arrive at a limited trade deal that was to have been announced during this visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the U.S. The deal stumbled over duties imposed by India on ICT (information and communication technology) products — the U.S. wanted the 20% duty on mobile phones and ethernet switches to be reduced or eliminated. America is also understood to have demanded greater access to the Indian market for medical devices such as stents and knee implants apart from its dairy and agricultural products. These are sensitive products politically for the Indian side as Mr. Modi has often taken credit for making them affordable. Loosening price controls now is not an option for India as that would push up prices of these products in the country. For its part, India wanted the Generalised System of Preferences which gives preferential market access for its products in the U.S., restored. These are so far as a “limited trade deal” goes; a full scale trade agreement would pose bigger challenges on issues such as intellectual property, e-commerce and the ticklish subject of H1B visas.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale has said that the two sides “narrowed” down their differences and made “significant progress” but it is clear that there is still a wide gulf even assuming that India is willing to go more than half the way to strike a deal. That a deal could not be struck despite Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal winging his way to New York to lead negotiations tells the story. For U.S. President Trump, even a limited deal with India will be something to talk about as he approaches election year. This is especially because trade talks with China are going nowhere. China has not only taken Mr. Trump’s punitive tariffs on its chin but has retaliated in kind, picking the products that could hurt his constituency and supporters. This explains the hectic, behind-the-scenes activity with India in the last few weeks. With its economy in the grip of a major slowdown, any concessions from India on imports of American products may not have gone down well both politically and in economic terms. Going by the limited information in the public domain, it appears that India has played tough and refused to yield to U.S. demands. Trade negotiations are never easy and for them to succeed, both sides have to believe in a policy of give and take. It does not help if one side tries to bulldoze the other into submitting totally to its interests. At this point in time it does seem that even a limited trade deal between India and the U.S. is some distance away.

Words**Kind****Meaning**

Agreement

Noun

Accord, concurrence, consensus, harmony, concord

Backslapping

Adj.

Cheerful, clubby, festive, genial, jolly, jovial

Contrary	Noun	Opposite, opposing, clashing, contradictory
Expectation	Noun	Supposition, assumption, presumption, conjecture, surmise
Conscious	Adj.	Aware, awake, wide awake, alert, reactive
Generate	Verb	Cause, give rise to, lead to, produce, churn out
Announce	Verb	Proclaim, declare, herald, profess
Stumble over	Verb	Bump into, run into, run upon, elude
Impose	Verb	Foist, force, thrust, inflict, obtrude
Ethernet	Adj.	Client server
Eliminate	Verb	Remove, get rid of, abolish, abrogate, do away with
Access	Verb	Retrieve, gain, examine, acquire, obtain
Implant	Verb	Insert, embed, bury, lodge, introduce
Apart from		Except for, but for, aside from, excluding
Dairy	Noun	Buttery, creamery, factory, form
Affordable	Adj.	Cheap, economical, fair, modest
Loosen	Verb	Make slack, slacken, detach, release
Intellectual	Adj.	High brow, academic, thinker, polymath, sage, scholar
Ticklish	Adj.	Problematic, tricky, delicate, sensitive, awkward, thorny, knotty, taxing
Significant	Adj.	Phenomenal, notable, note worthy, remarkable, Important
Progress	Noun	Development, forward, movement, advancement
Assume	Verb	Presume, suppose, tacit, surmise, deduce
Willing	Adj.	Ready, prepared, disposed, minded, eager
Negotiations	Noun	Discussion, tacks, parleying, deliberation, arbitration haggling
Approach	Verb	Produce, towards, draw, near, advance to wards
Punitive	Adj.	Penal, disciplinary, corrective, harsh stiff, severe
Tariff	Noun	Tax, duty, toll, excise, assessment, impost
Retaliate	Verb	Fight back, strike back, hit back, reciprocate, counter attack
Supporter	Noun	Advocate, backer, adherent, promoter, defender, votary
Hectic	Adj.	Frantic, frenetic, frenzied, feverish, maniac

Grip	Noun	Grasp, clutch, hold, clasp, clench, cling to
Concession	Noun	Compromise, adjustment, modification
Yield to	Verb	Surrender, capitulate, submit, relent
Succeed	Verb	Come off, pull off, bring off, carry off
Bulldoze	Verb	Destroy, dismantle, demolish, disassemble, annihilate decimate

DEFINING MOMENT

The words of 16-year-old climate activist, Greta Thunberg, at the UN climate summit in New York, that her dreams and childhood had been stolen by the empty words of leaders has highlighted in a stunning and candid manner the agony of the next generation as far as the climate crisis is concerned. If activist and Nobel winner Malala Yousafzai has risen to become the face of children's education, Greta is sure to be the champion soon for climate change action and a clean environment. Wise counsel must prevail now and global leaders should walk their talk first ('World' page, "Trump slammed for mocking Greta's speech", September 25).

The bonhomie between the leaders of the largest and oldest democracies is welcome. However for the U.S. President, Donald Trump to call the Indian Prime Minister as the 'Father of India' is in bad taste and akin to undermining the true father of the nation. India has only one "father of the nation" and no politician is deserving to be termed this. This is because the core policies of Gandhiji — an observance of simplicity, truth and nonviolence — have long been forgotten by today's politicians.

One doesn't know how far the Chief Justice of India was right in reprimanding lawyers for questioning the recent transfer of judges; to say that they are intrusions does not augur well for the institution. Questioning cannot be called judicial interference. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer once said that we should have enough and more criticism of the judiciary as that alone would speak about the awareness of the people. To silence criticism is not democracy or a part of the rule of law. If lawyers who are an integral part of the judicial system do not question it, then who else will do it? Not to do so would be dereliction on their part. In recent times, there have been cases of two judges resigning to protest unjust transfers; in one instance it was a case of executive interference which is the real intrusion. It should not be forgotten that some Supreme Court Judges themselves questioned decisions by the Supreme Court Collegium. There has to be a nationwide debate as preservation of the Constitution and the rule of law is the need of the hour.

Is it a case of indiscretion on the part of the Indian Army chief, Gen. Rawat? With credible information of this kind, the best thing would have been is to be quiet. The group may have shifted by now.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Summit	Noun	Top, peak, crest, apex, zenith, apogee, ridge
Empty	Adj.	Vacant, unoccupied, uninhabited, desolate Deserted, untenanted, abandoned
Stunning	Adj.	Remarkable, extra ordinary, staggering, incredible impressive, phenomenal, fabulous
Candid	Adj.	Candour, forth right, down right, candour
Generation	Noun	Creation, causing, engendering, spawning, initiation
Crisis	Noun	Plight, crux, climax , culmination, rubicon
Transmute	Verb	Change, mutata, transmogrify, alter, metamorphose
Counsel	Noun	Advice, guidance, direction, instruction, warring
Slam	Verb	Criticize, censure, condemn, reprimand, denounce
Bonhomie	Noun	Geniality, congeniality, conviviality, cordiality, affability amiability
Akin to		Similar to, analogous to
Undermine	Verb	Subvert, sabotage, threaten, weaken
Deserve	Verb	Merit, earn, warrant, rate, justify
Intrusion	Noun	Encroachment, trespass on, incursion on, violation infringement
Reprimand	Verb	Condemn, rebuke, chide, lambate, pillory
Dereliction	Noun	Dilapidation, disrepair, decrepitude, abandonment desertion, rejection
Awareness	Noun	Consciousness, recognition, realization, cognizance Perception, apprehension, grasp
Instance	Noun	Example, occurrence, specimen, exemplar
Integral	Adj.	Essential, fundamental, intrinsic, inherent, innate
Augur	Verb	Prognosticate, guess, portend, prophesy
Judicial	Adj.	Legal, judiciary, juridical, judicatory
Interference	Noun	Intrusion, intervention, intercession, impinging encroaching, obtrusion
Environment	Noun	Habitat, domain , territory, surroundings
Prevail	Verb	Persuade, induce, coax, convince, sway
Unjust	Adj.	Biased, prejudiced, unfair, inequitable, partisan slanted, bigoted
Indiscretion	Noun	Imprudence, injudiciousness, incaution, indelicacy carelessness
Credible	Adj.	Believable, reliable, feasible , tenable, plausible
Tidings	Noun	Information, news, reports, communicate