

India may face US pressure to reduce agri products tariffs

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WHILE NEW DELHI is considering a range of items for tariff reductions on US products, Washington, DC is particularly keen on exporting more agricultural goods to India and is seeking a reduction in tariffs in this traditionally high-protection sector, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Discussions on agricultural tariffs are set to arise during negotiations for the India-US bilateral trade agreement. Early indications suggest that agricultural exports are an "offensive interest" of the new Donald Trump administration, which is looking to boost US exports, a person aware of the development said.

The American farming community in mid-Western states has been a key voter base for Trump since 2016. In the



recent election, he managed to increase his support among farming-dependent counties, with more than 100 of agri-focused counties backing him with at least 80% of their vote, according to an Investigate Midwest report.

Even as India lowered its basic customs duty on a range of items in the Union Budget, a White House statement on rec-

iprocal tariffs earlier this month pointed out that Indian tariffs on agricultural goods remain significantly higher than those imposed by the US on Indian products.

"The US average applied Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariff on agricultural goods is 5%, while India's average applied MFN tariff is 3.9%," the White House said.