

CUTS International *Global Affairs*

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Enhancing Strategic Partnerships: PM Modi's Visits to France and the US

Modi's Diplomatic Push

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France and the US from February 10–13, 2025, further strengthened India's global partnerships. In France, he co-chaired the AI Action Summit and advanced cooperation on modular nuclear reactors, reflecting shared innovation goals.

In Washington, D.C., he and President Trump discussed trade, defence, and strategic ties. Key takeaways from the US include plans to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, potential F-35 sales to India, the emergence of "COMPACT" and "TRUST", and increased energy imports to address trade imbalances. While Trump criticised India's tariffs, both leaders signalled a willingness to negotiate. The visit also touched on immigration, with Modi pledging to tackle human trafficking.

This edition of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) provides a comprehensive overview of Prime Minister Modi's visit to France and then to the US, compiling articles and reports from both print and electronic media.

Op-eds	Key Takeaways
France (February 10-12)	
PM Modi, President Macron launch India-France Roadmap on Artificial <i>ANI, February 11 2025</i>	Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron launched a new roadmap for India-France cooperation on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The initiative aims to strengthen AI research and development, focusing on ethical frameworks, innovation, and industry collaboration.
Macron and Modi tour Marseille as France and India push for geopolitical Independence <i>France 24, February 12 2025</i>	French President Emmanuel Macron continued his efforts to forge a closer relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inaugurating India's new consulate in Marseille on the Mediterranean coast. The two leaders are discussing a proposed economic corridor that would link India to Europe through the Middle East.
PM Modi's message at AI Action Summit: Open source, sustainability, job optimism <i>Indian Express, 12 2025</i>	Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the need to build quality data sets that are " free from biases " and embrace open-source models. He also carried a rather hopeful message on the potential impact of AI on jobs.
USA (February 13-14)	
Can India stay unscathed as Trump's trade war threatens to escalate? <i>Mint, February 13 2025</i>	PM Modi visited the US at a critical moment. Trump has called India " a big abuser of trade " but America's tariff-reduction ask list is known. So, a US-friendly strategy that doesn't compromise our interests may help us avoid the fallout of a trade war.
Tesla Hires in India, Signaling Entry Post Modi's US Trip <i>Bloomberg, February 13 2025</i>	Tesla Inc. is hiring in India, in mounting signs it plans to enter the market shortly after Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the US
What you need to know about US-India trade, in 4 charts <i>CNN Business, February 13 2025</i>	US trade policies are under the microscope after President Donald Trump enacted tariffs on top trading partner China and teased more, broader tariffs in the coming days. With Narendra Modi, prime minister of India, Visit the White House, CNN takes a look at the trade relationship between the two countries.

Op-eds	Key Takeaways
To trump Trump's tariffs, Modi must think big <i>The Times of India, February 14 2025</i>	The article suggests that India should focus on a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the US to counter Trump's tariffs rather than retaliating with tit-for-tat measures. It emphasises the need for a strategic, multifaceted trade agreement that includes goods, services, investments, and market access.
India must adjust to a whole new world <i>The Tribune, February 17 2025</i>	The article discusses how India must adapt to a rapidly changing global order amid shifting geopolitical and economic landscapes. It highlights challenges posed by evolving trade norms, strategic alliances, and economic realignments. The piece emphasises India's need for proactive policy adjustments, stronger regional partnerships, and a more dynamic approach to global trade
Delhi hopes for some tariff easing as it works on US trade agreement <i>Indian Express, February 18 2025</i>	On reciprocal tariffs, where the US has announced plans to match high tariffs in the partner country, including India, the official said that New Delhi is awaiting clarity on its impact as the US Commerce Secretary is expected to get back with details by April
Global trade, Trump and India's role <i>Indian Express, February 18th, 2025</i>	The article highlights India's strategic navigation of global trade shifts amid U.S. policy changes under Trump. The Modi-Trump meeting set ambitious trade goals, including a \$500-billion target by 2030 via a Bilateral Trade Agreement under COMPACT. Key trade sectors were identified to balance the deficit. The article also critiques Trump's deviation from WTO's MFN principle, impacting global trade stability.