

**CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA**  
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2017**

**Trade News Highlights- February 2017**

**1. Visa changes could stunt budding US-India ties under Trump**

Speculation about tougher rules on H-1B visas sent tech stocks tumbling in India early February, and increased concerns about the protectionist direction of U.S. policy after Trump temporarily suspended immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries.

**2. Indian PM urges U.S. to keep an open mind on visas for skilled workers**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the United States to keep an open mind on admitting skilled Indian workers. "The Prime Minister referred to the role of skilled Indian talent in enriching the American economy and society," Prime Minister's Office said in a statement after he met a bipartisan delegation of 26 members of the U.S. Congress.

**3. India seeks dispute panel against US at WTO**

India has submitted its first request for establishment of a dispute panel against the US at the World Trade Organisation (WTO)—a request that was blocked by Washington on February 20. According to India, eleven measures adopted at the state level in the US to promote renewable energy violate WTO rules. The measures adopted by the states of Washington, California, Montana, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Michigan, Delaware, Minnesota and the city of Los Angeles to promote the use of solar energy, biofuels and other renewable energies violate international trade rules on subsidies, agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) by favouring the use of domestic components over imported products.

**4. Tesla to Become the Latest American Company to Target India's Monstrous Growth**

Elon Musk, Chief Executive of electric car maker Tesla Inc. seems eager to grab an opportunity to launch in the Indian market and tweeted on February 7<sup>th</sup> that he hopes to enter into the Indian market this summer. Santosh Rao, Head of Research at Manhattan Venture Partners, believes that Tesla's push into India makes strategic sense. "The market opportunity is too compelling to ignore," said Rao. "India has a growing middle class with rising disposable income. The manufacturing cost will also be relatively lower." The Indian opportunity, represented by a huge population, growing middle class, large burgeoning upper class and deep smartphone penetration, has already attracted many companies ahead of the likes of Apple and Tesla.

## Trade statistics:

### Annual Trade figures for 2016 by Commodity (Values in USD)

#### India's Exports

State	Total value(in dollars)	India's Exports (Top Commodity)	Percent of India's total exports to state.
Alaska	5,273,335	PRIMARY METAL MFG	55.9%
Arizona	213,935,949	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	17.0%
California	3,634,019,628	APPAREL MANUFACTURING PRODUCTS	16.9%
Hawaii	5,790,710	TEXTILE MILLS PRODUCTS	20.3%
Idaho	11,302,158	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	13.9%
Montana	2,281,820	CHEMICALS	15.7%
Nevada	262,804,847	MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED COMMODITIES	62.9%
Oregon	132,335,201	APPAREL MANUFACTURING PRODUCTS	28.6%
Utah	98,600,844	TEXTILE MILLS PRODUCTS	10.5%
Washington	362,632,253	TEXTILE MILLS PRODUCTS	20.0%
Wyoming	3,386,747	MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	24.2%

Source: US Census Bureau

#### India's Imports

State	Total value(in dollars)	India's Imports (Top Commodity)	Percent of India's total imports from state.
Alaska	2,182,448	FOOD MANUFACTURES	61.20%
Arizona	114,770,110	TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	38.20%
California	5,263,881,266	MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED COMMODITIES	63.70%
Hawaii	102,812	WASTE AND SCRAP	81.70%
Idaho	18,927,872	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	69.30%
Montana	53,668,363	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	96.50%
Nevada	812,186,209	PRIMARY METAL MFG	85.50%
Oregon	123,017,031	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	47.30%
Utah	101,448,276	PRIMARY METAL MFG	45.50%
Washington	817,855,279	TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	51%
Wyoming	12,912,385	CHEMICALS	97.80%

Source: US Census Bureau

## Trade Enquiries

Here are some of the trade enquiries that this post received during this month and they have been attended to appropriately.

Quality Lifesciences	Handicrafts
Sai Enterprises	Leather goods, Silk Goods, Handicrafts and Jute Products