

India may cut tariffs on few agri, dairy goods via BTA with US, but wheat, rice likely to be kept out

The government is unlikely to yield when it comes to foodgrains under the bilateral trade agreement, despite pressure from Washington, DC.

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While the US is also pushing for lower duties on wheat and rice through the trade deal, India is unlikely to budge, sources said.

Sivakumar Ramjee, executive director of Andersen Group firm Nangia Andersen, too called for selective tariff reductions on non-sensitive products to navigate the complex negotiations with the US. "The US imposes significantly lower tariffs on agricultural goods, averaging just 5 percent, which has created a trade imbalance that the US is eager to address," said Ramjee.