



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

DPG POLICY REPORT

Review of India's exports to the US
in 2020: Need for a *Vanijya Bharat*

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Volume VI, Issue 23

JULY 27, 2021



Delhi Policy Group

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www.delhipolicygroup.org



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DPG Policy Report Vol. VI, Issue 23

July 27, 2021

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**Review of India's exports to the US in 2020:
Need for a *Vanijya Bharat***

By

V.S. Seshadri and Shruthi Menon

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Review of India's exports to the US in 2020: Need for a *Vanijya Bharat*

by

V.S. Seshadri and Shruthi Menon

Introduction

India's exports to the United States declined by 2.78% during the COVID-19 battered year 2020-21, just as India's global exports also shrank during this period. But much like the trend in recent years, India's exports to the US performed relatively better compared to India's overall exports, which declined by 7.1%, as per DGCIS figures. At the same time, there were some products that enjoyed positive rates of export growth.

As per US import figures for the calendar year 2020, that may have captured fewer months of Indian industry's recovery phase after the first COVID-19 wave, imports from India were US\$ 51.2 bn as against US\$ 57.7 bn in 2019, which meant a contraction by 11.3% during a year when the US's overall imports declined by 6.5%. India's share in US imports, therefore, went down marginally to 2.2% in 2020 as against 2.3% in the year before, and India's rank also slid to being the eleventh largest source of import from the earlier tenth spot. Imports from India in 2020 were even less than in 2018, when these stood at US\$ 54 bn.

Imports from several other countries into the US also underwent declines but Vietnam, Switzerland, Ireland and Taiwan bucked the trend and improved their rankings considerably to the 6th, 8th, 9th and 10th positions respectively, as against the UK, France and Italy, whose rankings got pulled down. China continued to be the top source of US imports with a share of 18.6%, a shade higher than the 18.1% in 2019, but a few notches lower than the 21.6% share it had held in 2017, before the trade war erupted between the two countries. And if we are looking for countries that may have benefitted the most from the decline in China's share in US imports, then ASEAN countries showed a significant rise in their exports. US imports from ASEAN went up steadily and significantly from 2018 to 2020, particularly those of Vietnam (62%), Cambodia (72.5%), Thailand (18%), Singapore (16.23%) and Malaysia (12%).

A mix of factors were at play in defining the US-India bilateral trade trend during 2020. First, India's supply constraints during a year that saw several months of economic lockdown contributed significantly towards the decline. Second, the absence of GSP concessions for India's exports since June 2019 made an impact. Third, was the opportunities created for third countries as a

consequence of additional tariffs on the bulk of China's exports to the US from late 2018. India could not fully avail of this opening, as it may have been able to in the absence of the COVID-19 impact. Several ASEAN countries performed better, Vietnam in particular, and significantly improved their market shares.

Fourth, there was increased demand in the US for certain COVID-19 related supplies. For example, imports by the US of Pharma items (HS 30), plastic goods (HS 39) and home textiles and face masks (HS 63) rose markedly, as also of certain other items as we shall see later. Further, investors looking for secure assets drove gold prices high and imports of HS 71 items into the US during the year surged by over 80%. Fifth, there was depressed demand in the US for certain consumer and industrial items, as in respect of apparel. Imports of energy and fuel items under HS 27 also declined by over 38% in value and of automotive products (HS 87) by 17.7%. Sixth, the tariffs imposed by the US on steel and aluminium imports on security grounds under Section 232 of the US Trade Act since March 2018 continued to have an impact.

In this report, we shall try and examine which of these factors may have acted more dominantly in respect of India's exports to the US in 2020. To keep our analysis from getting too unwieldy, we have taken into account only those HS 2 digit chapters in which India's annual exports to the US exceeded US\$ 500 mn in recent years, or those in which India's exports to the US under the GSP scheme exceeded US\$ 100 mn in 2017 and 2018. Together, these number 21 HS chapters, which we can regard as sectors with considerable export strength for India in the US market. These chapters accounted for over 85% of imports from India into the US in 2020. We shall further aggregate these chapters under three broad heads which shared some trade trends¹. These are:

- A) HS chapters that showed consistent growth in India's exports;
- B) HS chapters whose exports rose till 2019 but faltered in 2020; and
- C) HS chapters in which India's exports to the US experienced a mixed trend in recent years and were driven more by sectoral dynamics in the US market.

In each HS chapter, we shall also analyse the imports from India into the US in some of India's top exports at the 4-digit level.

¹ We shall be using mainly US import statistics as the source since it allows comparisons with India's competitors in the US market. US also publishes trade figures for GSP utilisation.

Furthermore, to analyse the impact of GSP withdrawal, we have focused our attention on India's exports in the top hundred 8-digit tariff lines that were eligible for the zero rate of duty in 2017/2018 under the GSP scheme of the US, but which have had to be imported with applicable MFN duties in the US from June 2019 onwards. India's exports covered by such top 100 tariff lines (we shall henceforth refer to them as GSP-100 for short) in comparison to the total exports in respect of all such GSP eligible tariff lines exceeded 60% in 2018. In trying to obtain a reasonable picture about the overall impact of GSP withdrawal, due account has also been taken of the GSP utilisation trend² at the tariff line level in recent years. Admittedly, during a year in which several sectors saw a shrinking of imports in the US due to lower demand, a reduction in value in imports from India may by itself not mean an adverse impact from the GSP withdrawal, unless market shares were also analysed. This has been done where necessary.

The year 2018 had also not seen any significant trade diversion from the US imposed tariffs on China. This happened in 2019 and 2020. When the trade share of the top most source of import into the US gets significantly reduced other competitors benefit, including India. This helped reduce the effect of GSP withdrawal in India's case. When we study the impact of GSP withdrawal in its first full year in 2020, imports during the year 2019 may be a more suitable reference year even as GSP was available only till May that year. A comparison only with imports in 2018, on the ground that this was the last full year of GSP availability, may be inadequate.

A summing up of the analysis has been provided at the end, flagging also the desirability of pushing India's exports to achieve a *Vanijya Bharat*. The need for adequately preparing for trade negotiations with the US later this year, during which restoration of GSP should be an important issue, has been stressed, for which the findings in this report can provide useful inputs.

A: HS chapters that showed consistent growth in India's exports

At the two-digit level, HS chapters 30 (pharmaceuticals), 57 (carpets), 85 (electrical machinery) and 94 (furniture and bedding) have shown steady growth in India's exports to the US in recent years, including during 2020. India's shares in the US's imports of these items have also risen in recent years.

² The GSP utilisation rate of a tariff line can be determined by working out the percentage of imports from India under the line which came under GSP for a particular year as against the total import of that item into the US from India in the same year.

Pharmaceuticals (HS 30)

US imports of pharmaceuticals under HS 30 grew sharply by over 25% during 2020. From US\$ 119 bn in 2018, they rose to US\$ 146 bn in 2020, with India's share also climbing from 5.3% to 5.64%, ranking fifth among all sources with an import value of US\$ 8.2 bn. Notable here were also the sharply higher levels of imports during the year from Ireland, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium, which held the first four ranks. Ireland, which has become a global hub of pharmaceutical majors, led the pack with a 23% share. Almost 25% of the US's imports under HS 30 in 2020 were vaccines and related items (HS 3002), mainly from Ireland, Germany, Belgium and Switzerland. In respect of medicaments (HS 3004), India was the third largest source, after Ireland and Switzerland.

Table 1: Imports into the US from top 5 sources of HS 30 at 4-digit level in 2020 in US\$

HS CHAPTER	IRELAND	GERMANY	SWITZERLAND	BELGIUM	INDIA
3002	10,629,241,185	12,092,647,599	3,561,547,540	7,358,774,926	200,919,255
3004	22,582,431,934	7,511,197,555	14,716,314,022	2,877,698,929	7,853,061,344
3006	140,274,138	442,526,866	217,261,915	66,238,566	118,196,611
3003	39,906,259	54,492,416	10,152,994	21,180,896	35,061,651
3005	6,660,642	57,634,627	5,495,964	4,990,883	8,724,640
3001	682,750	44,265,937	3,172,671	806,457	126,565
Total of above lines	33,399,196,908	20,202,765,000	18,513,945,106	10,329,690,657	8,216,090,066

Source: *USITC*

India was, however, not eligible for any GSP concession in the US for HS chapter 30.

Carpets and floor coverings

India has been a leader in the US market for carpets under HS 57, exporting a variety of woven, knotted and tufted carpets and floor coverings. The US's imports from the world, as well as its imports from India, grew during 2020, both somewhat marginally. Imports from China declined from a 24% share in 2018 to 13% in 2020, while Turkey's share rose sharply from 19% to 31%, just a shade behind India. These imports were largely of woven carpets. The demand shifted due to additional taxes on Chinese goods and house renovations during the pandemic. US imports from leading sources under the different four digit lines are captured in Table 2. Some Turkish companies reportedly made new investments or rented warehouses in the US with the support of Turkey's Trade

Ministry³. Vietnam, which had negligible exports till 2018, acquired a 3.1% share in 2020. Indian carpet exporters need to remain alert to these developments.

Table 2: Leading carpet imports and sources in the US market at 4-digit level in 2020 in US\$

Country	HTS Number	Description	Year 2020
Turkey	5702	CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS, WOVEN, NOT TUFTED OR FLOCKED.	854,537,906
India	5702	CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS, WOVEN, NOT TUFTED OR FLOCKED.	385,918,467
India	5703	CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS, TUFTED, WHETHER OR NOT MADE-UP	259,009,818
India	5701	CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS, KNOTTED, WHETHER OR NOT MADE-UP	186,953,177
China	5703	CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS, TUFTED, WHETHER OR NOT MADE-UP	160,214,014
China	5702	CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS, WOVEN, NOT TUFTED OR FLOCKED.	99,496,358
India	5705	CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS (WHETHER OR NOT MADE-UP), NESOI	98,122,778
China	5705	CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS (WHETHER OR NOT MADE-UP), NESOI	92,403,633
Egypt	5702	CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS, WOVEN, NOT TUFTED OR FLOCKED.	86,556,421
Vietnam	5703	CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS, TUFTED, WHETHER OR NOT MADE-UP	63,372,978

Source: *USITC*

No HS 57 item figured under GSP-100 and India was eligible for GSP concessions only for three lines in this chapter - HS 5702.92.10, 5703.20.10 and 5703.30.20. The total imports of these items from India into the US rose from US\$ 24.59 m in 2017 to US\$ 28.21 m in 2018, which further increased to US\$ 28.97 m in 2020 (see Table 3). The GSP withdrawal did not pull down these exports.

³ <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/economy/turkish-carpet-furniture-sectors-to-increase-exports-to-us-with-new-investments> - Turkish carpet, furniture sectors to increase exports to US with new investments

Table 3: Imports of GSP eligible items of HS 57 from India into the US in US\$

MFN Tariff in 2018	HS CHAPTERS	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
2.70	5702.92.10	8,669,663	9,557,841	8,800,843	13,569,099	0	12,204,528	15,001,706
5.80	5703.20.10	274,539	712,726	337,991	708,769	267,282	709,547	804,905
6.00	5703.30.20	12,882,452	14,319,837	11,984,357	13,936,563	4,618,024	12,137,468	13,168,161
	Total of above lines in HS 57	21,826,654	24,590,404	21,123,191	28,214,431	4,885,306	25,051,543	28,974,772
	Total imports from India for all of HS 57	21,826,654	846,814,685	21,123,191	904,878,926	4,885,306	929,115,608	931,027,364

Electric and electronic machinery (HS 85)

The US's imports of electric and electronic machinery items under HS 85 declined by 3.5% in 2020, while imports of the same from India went up sharply by 45%. Equally significant was also the doubling of imports from India into the US, from US\$ 1.3 bn in 2017 to US\$ 2.97 bn in 2020, even as the US's imports in 2020 were 4% lower than in 2017. But India's market share still remains a paltry 0.9% in a sector in which total US imports exceeded US\$ 330 bn.

As a result of the US-China trade war, China's market share was reduced from 43% in 2018 to 34% in 2020. Vietnam's share has at the same time more than doubled from 3.4% to 7.5%. Shares of Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea and Thailand have also risen.

India's top ten exports under HS 85 at the four-digit level have also seen a consistent rise from 2017 to 2020, as may be seen from Table 4. Additionally, in most of these four-digit lines except HS 8541 (diodes, transistors and similar devices), import shares of India in the US have climbed while those of China have declined. With telecom and other electronic items getting a boost under the PLI scheme in India, it should be possible for India to capture a much bigger share in HS 85 in the future.

Table 4: Imports of top HS 85 four-digit lines for India and comparisons with China in 2018 and 2020 in US\$

HTS Number	Description	India (2018)	China (2018)	India (2020)	China (2020)
8517	Electrical apparatus for line telephony, telephone sets including mobile phones	220,869,531 (0.19)*	74,318,957,563 (64.7)	786,234,290 (0.83)	54,288,930,149 (57.95)
8504	Electrical transformers	230,551,535 (1.55)	6,140,145,015 (41.36)	543,460,431 (3.5)	3,952,343,751 (25.56)
8503	Parts of electrical motors	62,688,522 (2.78)	544,669,891 (24.17)	342,238,749 (13.67)	361,666,762 (14.45)
8536	Electrical apparatus for switching or protecting electrical circuits	184,759,807 (1.65)	2,658,405,767 (23.78)	197,340,985 (2.01)	1,925,080,076 (19.63)
8544	Insulated wire, cable and other insulated electrical conductors	71,422,793 (0.32)	4,720,416,052 (21.78)	146,076,301 (0.77)	2,904,899,690 (15.35)
8501	Electrical motors and generators	121,729,734	2,201,831,751	116,261,737	1,532,284,258

HTS Number	Description	India (2018)	China (2018)	India (2020)	China (2020)
		(1.27)	(23.07)	(1.30)	(17.21)
8538	Parts for electrical apparatus	85,158,805 (2.66)	603,347,763 (18.86)	113,965,138 (4.01)	370,677,399 (13.05)
8537	Boards, panels etc. with two or more apparatus for switching	93,858,504 (0.79)	2,014,389,652 (17.03)	103,611,947 (0.88)	1,679,996,991 (14.31)
8541	Diodes, transistors and similar devices	86,731,932 (0.98)	1,463,624,553 (16.65)	94,454,610 (0.73)	1,039,677,210 (8.09)
8502	Electrical generating sets and convertors	29,014,707 (1.60)	929,400,975 (51.50)	89,375,151 (5.23)	665,722,047 (39.01)
Total of above lines		1,186,785,870	95,595,188,982	2,533,019,339	68,721,278,333

Source: *USITC*

*market share

Around 25 to 30% of India's exports under HS 85 were eligible for GSP concessions. The GSP utilisation rates for these were around 70% and the MFN duties varied from 0.80% to 4.2%. There were also twelve lines from HS 85 that figured in GSP-100 (see Table 5). Despite the GSP withdrawal, India's exports of motors and their parts, transformers and parts, and switchboard control panels (that comprised six of these lines) saw a substantial rise in 2020. In fact, imports into US from India of HS 85030095 (other parts not elsewhere specified for use with electrical motors and generators) sharply rose from US\$ 52 m in 2018 to US\$ 114 m in 2019, and to US\$ 331 m in 2020. Likewise, imports into the US of HS 85044095 items (static converters) also rose very sharply from 2017 onwards and even doubled between 2019 and 2020, despite the absence of GSP. On the other hand, India's exports of switches suffered a decline (HS 8535 and 8536) even as exports of parts of switches (HS 8538) performed somewhat better.

US import demand for HS 85030095 rose from US\$1.2 bn in 2019 to USD\$1.38 bn in 2020. China's market share for HS 85030095 in US imports declined from 43% in 2017 to 19% in 2020. This may help explain the reason behind the rise in India's exports of this item despite the absence of GSP in 2020.

Similarly, the US imports for HS 85044095 increased from US\$ 4.53 bn in 2017 to US\$ 4.99 bn in 2019, later increasing to USD 5.16 bn in 2020. China is a relatively smaller player in this item, even as its market share increased from 0.78% in 2017 to 0.88% in 2018, but declined to 0.70% in 2020.

Table 5: Imports of GSP-100 items in HS 85 from India into the US in US\$

MFN Tariff in 2018	HS CHAPTERS	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
3.00	8503.00.95	28,863,078	40,327,929	30,186,022	52,422,623	14,863,025	114,414,008	330,757,562
0.80	8504.33.00	14,670,656	15,790,237	13,441,585	15,191,541	6,694,101	14,703,213	16,651,863
1.20	8504.90.96	8,818,235	13,830,666	11,910,044	16,998,793	7,387,236	27,653,557	31,361,135
0.35	8504.40.95	11,828,388	61,617,358	27,499,170	87,558,793	5,908,680	167,107,690	392,985,665
4.20	8509.90.55	13,647,501	13,780,592	16,972,322	17,774,236	5,757,462	10,450,114	10,949,359
1.25	8511.40.00	41,062,025	52,995,684	36,057,762	53,622,910	8,993,793	36,731,239	23,523,047
2.70	8535.30.00	37,367,026	37,675,957	7,121,404	7,305,247	3,287,341	4,771,848	910,675
2.70	8535.90.80	14,696,394	16,673,654	15,012,764	16,878,169	5,916,440	13,704,913	11,812,771
1.30	8536.90.85	31,964,862	37,217,653	40,356,894	48,093,899	15,197,961	49,376,563	31,317,971
2.70	8537.10.91	16,125,382	71,337,950	38,606,466	90,032,774	20,589,520	83,206,633	101,773,770
3.50	8538.90.81	28,556,837	44,381,924	39,384,110	61,330,236	24,652,181	89,385,574	83,633,904
	Total of above lines in HS 85	415,876,141	533,712,048	533,712,048	735,846,600	119,247,740	611,505,352	1,035,677,722
	Total imports from India for all of HS 85	420,673,330	1,299,696,399	478,581,194	1,662,226,286	225,912,217	2,046,245,392	2,968,854,093

Source: USITC

Furniture, bedding, cushions etc.

The US's overall imports of HS 94 covering furniture and other related items went down by 3.4% in 2020, but imports from India rose marginally, taking India's market share to 1.6% with imports from it valued at US\$ 947 m. While China had a 52% market share in the US in 2018, this dwindled to 38% in 2020. The space has been quickly taken up by Vietnam, that has more than doubled its share, from 7.6% to 15.8%, during this two-year period. Shares of Malaysia and Indonesia have doubled too, even if from lower bases.

At the 4-digit level, imports into the US from India of HS 9403 (other furniture and parts thereof) increased from US\$ 395 m in 2018 to 439 m in 2020. In value terms, China and Vietnam were the top exporters of HS 9403 to the US but the import share of China was reduced from 48.6% in 2017 to 29.25% in 2020. Vietnam's share on the other hand increased from 14.45% in 2017 to 25.7% in 2020. India's share too has increased consistently, but less sharply, from 15.2% in 2017 to 18.67% in 2020.

A similar trend was observed in respect of mattress supports- HS 9404. Imports of HS 9404 items into the US from India increased to USD 274 m in 2020 from USD 224 m in 2018. The top sources of imports were China and Mexico, with China's share declining from 80.05% in 2017 to 52.30% in 2020. In terms of import value, imports of HS 9404 from China into the US increased from US\$ 2.91 bn in 2017 to 3.26 bn in 2018, but declined to US\$ 2.39 bn in 2020. Mexico's market share declined from 6.72% in 2017 to 5.06% in 2020. India ranked third and imports from it increased from USD\$185 m in 2017 to US\$ 274 m in 2020. As one Indian mattress manufacturer has noted,⁴ the China-US trade war has expanded requirements for mattresses and furniture in the US market from other sources, and our exporters need to rise up quickly to the opportunity.

As for the impact of GSP withdrawal in HS 94, only 15% of India's exports to the US were covered by the GSP scheme. Of the two tariff lines that figured in GSP-100 (see Table 6), there was no impact of the withdrawal on India's exports of pillows, cushions etc. (HS 94049020) even though the MFN duty on this item was relatively high at 6%

⁴ See the newsitem <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/we-may-double-exports-in-fy22-says-duroflex-md-mathew-chandy/article34623626.ece>

Table 6: Imports from India of top GSP-100 items from HS 94 into the USA in US\$

MFN Tariffs	HS CHAPTERS	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
6.00	9404.90.20	24,655,215	36,151,421	34,502,724	50,074,099	15,088,562	60,681,986	60,970,921
4.70	9405.50.40	56,835,957	62,052,684	66,112,736	72,719,921	21,412,633	61,381,012	47,273,309
	Total of above lines in HS 94	81,491,172	98,204,105	100,615,460	122,794,020	36,501,195	122,062,998	108,244,230
	Total imports from India for all of HS 94	118,798,203	759,063,948	132,375,138	873,915,600	50,594,022	946,387,497	947,880,814

Source: USITC

The question arises whether India could have exported more in 2020 if GSP was available for cushions. Table 7, which gives the imports under the GSP scheme for this item, provides the answer: Pakistan, Thailand and Indonesia were able to substantially increase their exports of this item under GSP in 2020 in the absence of India.

Table 7: Imports of competitor countries in the US eligible for GSP for HS 9404.90.20 in US\$

Country	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020
India	24,655,215 (87.97)*	34,428,344 (90.08)	15,075,837 (67.17)	0
Thailand	1,086,741 (3.8)	589,117 (1.54)	1,400,518 (6.24)	4,696,703 (14.92)
Pakistan	776,305 (2.70)	803,085 (2.10)	719,861 (3.20)	11,102,172 (35.28)
Indonesia	513,072 (1.83)	723,157 (1.89)	1,030,227 (4.59)	1,508,830 (4.79)
Turkey	301,329 (1.07)	302,984 (0.79)	161,974 (0.72)	0
Total of 9404.90.20	28,024,253	38,219,518	22,441,372	31,468,058

Source: *USITC*

*market share

On the other hand, imports into the US from India of solar lanterns (MFN duty of 4.7%) declined significantly, from US\$ 73 m in 2018 to US\$ 47 m in 2020.

B: HS chapters whose exports rose till 2019 but faltered in 2020

Included in this category are twelve HS chapters - HS 03, 29, 39, 40, 42, 61, 62, 63, 68, 83, 84, and 87 - in each of which imports into the US from India steadily rose, including in 2019 when there was benefit from trade diversion from China. But India's output decline in 2020 and the depressed demand for certain items in the US seem to have had an impact on exports of these items, as they dropped in 2020. Moreover, imports of the US from China rebounded in 2020 from the dip in 2019 in respect of HS 39, 40, 63 and 84 due to demand surge. We shall see how each of these factors have impacted, to different degrees, chapter by chapter.

Fisheries (HS 03)

India is the second largest source of import of fishery items (HS 03) into the US, but its exports are principally frozen shrimps. Imports into the US from India of HS 03 items rose to US\$ 2.23 bn in 2019 but declined by 10% to US\$ 2.007 bn in 2020, marking a slightly smaller 12.17% share. Imports from India's competitors

for shrimps and other items, mainly Indonesia and Ecuador, rose during the year with Indonesia's market share increasing from 6.90% in 2019 to 7.84% in 2020 and Ecuador's market share increasing from 3.68% in 2019 to 5.12% in 2020. Imports into the US from Vietnam and Thailand, however, declined.

Imports into the US of frozen shrimps from India increased from US\$ 1.98 bn (42.17% market share) in 2018 to US\$ 2.29 bn (49.16% market share) in 2019. However, they declined to US\$ 1.94 bn (41.23% market share) in 2020. Also, the other two major items of imports from India, of HS 0303 (frozen fish) and 0307 (molluscs), have shown a decline from 2018 to 2020. Imports of HS 0307 products declined sharply, from US\$ 48.33 million in 2018 to US\$ 31.94 m in 2020. Imports of HS 0303 products from India to the US declined from US\$ 8.97 m in 2018 to USD 5.74 m in 2019, but increased in 2020 to US\$ 8.01 m.

There were no products from HS 03 in GSP-100 but two products of HS 0303 were GSP eligible i.e. frozen sole and frozen sardines, but imports from India were minor, each less than US\$ 0.5 m.

Organic Chemicals (HS 29)

Imports into the US from India of organic chemicals (HS 29) increased rapidly from US\$ 2.06 bn in 2017 to US\$ 2.76 bn in 2019, but declined marginally to US\$ 2.7 bn in 2020. However, since the overall imports of HS 29 items by the US were down by 7.2% in 2020, India's market share improved to 5.88% making it the fourth largest source of imports. Imports from China, which was the market leader till 2018, declined to a 15.88% share in 2020, while Ireland improved its position with a 21.6% share to take the lead.

India's top export products to the US at 4-digit level were HS 2933, 2934, 2918, 2924, 2922 and 2902, all of which were drug raw materials or intermediates except HS 2902 that comprised cyclic hydrocarbons (see Table 8). Imports of each of these products from India into the US exceeded US\$ 100 mn and increased in value from 2017 to 2019 except HS 2918 which declined in value but had an increased market share. In 2020 however there were declines in the values of HS 2934, 2918 and 2922 but the market share of HS 2922 saw a steady rise all through.

Table 8: Imports of top 6 HS 29 four-digit lines for India and comparisons with China in 2018, 2019 and 2020 in US\$

CHINA						
HS CHAPTERS						
YEAR	2902 Cyclic hydrocarbons	2918 Carboxylic acids with added oxygen function and their anhydrides	2922 Oxygen function amino compounds	2924 Carboxamide-function compounds	2933 Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atoms	2934 Nucleic acids and their salts
2018	29,777,451 (0.72)	491,760,024 (35.47)	337,401,361 (12.13)	358,145,489 (34)	1,165,479,652 (10.53)	425,164,542 (8.45)
2019	15,936,370 (0.52)	243,313,263 (22.49)	282,219,341 (15.49)	257,732,765 (25.31)	1,072,494,162 (9.56)	516,392,065 (8.80)
2020	11,183,773 (0.49)	220,146,726 (20.88)	297,206,162 (25.22)	284,133,962 (26.53)	984,700,923 (9.36)	600,039,763 (9.47)
INDIA						
	2902	2918	2922	2924	2933	2934
2018	84,440,967 (2.04)	212,427,806 (15.32)	124,652,410 (4.48)	113,253,124 (10.75)	379,071,896 (3.42)	297,713,436 (5.91)
2019	75,040,304 (2.43)	197,777,633 (18.28)	144,166,150 (7.91)	120,817,539 (11.86)	431,689,213 (3.85)	360,362,291 (6.14)
2020	129,685,784 (5.64)	173,958,768 (16.50)	125,504,911 (10.65)	145,838,128 (13.61)	506,384,555 (4.81)	314,918,231 (4.97)

Source: *USITC*

*market share

Table 8 which also gives corresponding figures for imports from China appears to indicate a certain degree of complementarities between increases and decreases in imports into the US from India and China in HS 2933, 2922 and 2902. India may perhaps have also been able to do better in HS 2934 and 2918 in 2020 if GSP had been available as can be inferred from the figures in Table 9 in respect of HS 29189920 and 29341090.

HS 29 is in fact a chapter under which India used to avail maximum GSP benefits. Over a third of Indian exports of HS 29 used to benefit from the GSP scheme of the US with zero duties, as against the MFN rates of duty that ranged between 1.07% and 6.5%. Fourteen HS 29 tariff lines figured in GSP-100, accounting for well around 60% of India's GSP exports in this chapter to the US, in which the GSP utilisation levels were also generally high (see Table 9).

Table 9: Imports of GSP-100 items in HS 29 from India into the US in US\$

HS CHAPTERS	MFN tariffs	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
2903.39.20	1.85	17,652,629	30,557,204	9,275,269	11,423,032	19,974,456	34,242,882	25,913,177
2903.91.30	5.50	15,809,794	15,820,114	16,865,376	16,865,376	6,880,232	15,829,407	12,648,488
2905.31.00	5.50	33,671,673	34,682,709	35,141,248	35,173,622	10,905,293	23,354,489	16,547,899
2915.90.50	1.90	25,549,221	26,538,569	25,535,547	26,169,708	10,045,418	19,198,054	11,103,968
2916.20.50	1.85	10,102,714	23,196,521	14,246,168	22,841,295	20,676,351	59,595,616	29,745,187
2918.99.20	6.50	107,697,023	107,697,023	124,334,781	125,513,039	57,963,248	105,024,050	71,337,024
2924.19.11	1.85	7,928,077	8,149,385	10,836,761	11,125,164	7,219,807	17,206,839	15,061,685
2931.39.00	1.85	1,009,603	1,340,903	21,082,825	21,491,852	20,225,284	59,196,622	44,354,031
2931.90.90	1.85	37,607,837	43,997,492	48,911,754	53,687,224	16,015,861	50,246,050	42,453,052
2933.69.60	1.17	4,350,530	18,539,606	15,983,049	44,360,409	14,241,967	99,301,090	83,751,065
2934.10.90	2.17	12,467,828	15,556,732	16,360,285	58,450,461	90,000	75,739,440	24,780,962
2934.99.12	6.50	14,320,510	15,567,958	11,347,478	12,955,282	8,858,223	17,723,164	19,242,189
2934.99.90	3.25	154,894,523	159,927,351	139,666,066	144,602,119	75,728,665	180,751,958	180,100,120
2942.00.50	1.85	14,869,363	18,376,075	22,019,318	25,624,780	9,621,961	28,015,334	21,267,666
Total of above 14 lines in HS 29		457,931,325	519,947,642	511,605,925	610,283,363	278,446,766	785,424,995	598,306,513
Imports from India for all of HS 29		793,033,852	2,060,561,928	836,813,958	2,396,778,028	411,182,004	2,760,649,968	2,702,019,117

Source: USITC

Imports under only one of these 14 tariff lines (HS 29349912- Aromatic or modified aromatic fungicides of other heterocyclic compounds, nesoi) actually saw a rise in 2020 and these were drug intermediates. Imports from China of HS 29349912 to the US also increased from US\$15.80 m (8.70% market share) in 2019 to US\$ 19.76 m (11.24% market share) whereas imports from India increased from US\$ 17.72 m (9.75% market share) in 2019 to US\$ 18.52 m in 2020 (10.54% market share).

Also, among the top two tariff lines getting GSP benefits, one was HS 29349990 (Non aromatic other heterocyclic compounds- a drug intermediate) attracting a MFN duty of 3.25% in which imports from India were US\$ 160 m in 2017, declined to US\$ 144 m in 2018 but climbed to US\$ 181 m in 2019, even though for half of the year India did not have the GSP benefit. This was mainly as a result of Trump tariffs reducing China's share which declined from 17.57% in 2017 to 15.49% in 2019 in this line and increasing slightly to 15.57% in 2020. But India could not build on this further in 2020, when its exports to US remained at the same level as in 2019.

The second highest item of import into the US from India in HS 29 under GSP was HS 29189920 (Methyl (E)-2-(2-chloro methyl) phenyl-3-methoxyacrylate) that attracted a higher duty level of 6.5%. Imports rose from US\$ 108 m in 2017 to US\$ 125 m in 2018 with almost full GSP utilisation. But GSP being available for only half the year led to imports declining to US\$ 105 m in 2019, which went down further to US\$ 71m in 2020. This trend can also be seen in the case of HS 29039130 and HS 29053100, both of which attracted a MFN duty of 5.5%. While the GSP utilisation levels were quite high in respect of these two items till 2018, their exports dropped somewhat in 2019 when GSP was available only for five months and fell more steeply in 2020. The exports of HS 29053100 more than halved in 2020 compared to 2018 figures.

Imports from India into US of the 14 lines in GSP-100 together rose from US\$ 520 m in 2017 to US\$ 610 m in 2018 and US\$ 785 m in 2019, but they declined to US\$ 598 m in 2020. It is not clear to what extent supply constraints were a factor in pulling down the imports in these items by almost 25% in 2020. Absence of GSP could well have been a significant factor.

Polymers and plastics (HS 39)

The picture was somewhat different in respect of import into the US of polymers and plastics (HS 39), in which imports from China rebounded from a decline in 2019 with a significant rise to take a 34.3% share in 2020, higher than its share in 2018. The increase clearly owed to a demand surge in plastic products, including face shields and other plastic items (HS 3926), tableware

and kitchenware (HS 3924) and floor coverings and tiles (HS 3918), which were much in need during the year when home improvement received focus. Imports of just these three sets of 4-digit items into the US from China added upto US\$ 15.52 bn in 2020. Vietnam and Taiwan too improved their standing. In relative terms, India's market share in HS 39 is relatively small at around 1%. But while it improved its exports from US\$ 520 mn in 2017 to US\$ 653 mn in 2019, they declined to US\$ 623 mn in 2020.

Almost two-thirds of India's exports under HS 39 used to benefit from the GSP zero duty against the normal MFN duty of 1.95% to 5.8%, with a generally high level of GSP utilisation. There were also ten lines of HS 39 in GSP-100 and their import figures may be seen in Table 10. The top item of import into the US was HS 39232100 (sacks and bags of polymers) with a MFN duty of 3%, which rose from an import value of US\$ 66 m in 2017 to US\$ 79 m in 2018 and US\$ 85 m in 2019, but declined to US\$ 74 m in 2020 when GSP was not available. A similar export trend was also seen in respect of each of HS 39046100 (polytetra fluoro ethylene) and 39202000 (non-adhesive plates of propylene).

There were also some items, mainly packaging materials, in which India's exports (and market share) rose despite the GSP withdrawal, which included HS 39199050 (type of self-adhesive plastic tapes), 39219040 (non-adhesive plastic plates and sheets) and 39233900 (woven polypropylene bags). Import demand from the US also increased for HS 39199050 and 39219040 from 2018 to 2020.

Table 10: Imports of GSP-100 items from HS 39 from India into the USA in US \$

HS CHAPTERS	MFN tariffs	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
3904.61.00	2.90	24,919,168	24,934,903	33,087,390	33,736,980	18,856,530	41,109,641	26,811,608
3914.00.60	1.95	12,320,312	13,647,513	20,151,121	20,957,630	11,574,588	28,889,113	24,812,558
3919.90.50	5.80	22,098,836	22,412,559	23,422,355	23,767,995	11,098,338	28,638,584	31,199,007
3920.10.00	4.20	4,845,824	6,217,570	6,808,925	8,806,075	9,773,674	20,891,573	19,100,001
3920.20.00	4.20	37,169,641	38,994,555	40,723,600	42,798,730	12,336,658	32,698,603	32,069,850
3920.69.00	4.20	13,655,488	13,821,621	14,329,795	14,771,622	8,647,282	19,325,729	19,336,053
3920.99.50	5.80	16,934,726	17,299,153	12,583,616	12,763,982	4,831,006	7,405,958	2,219,405
3921.90.40	4.20	12,116,213	13,068,274	18,810,483	20,320,140	10,190,092	23,500,306	29,167,350
3923.21.00	3.00	63,878,681	66,415,079	75,535,866	79,136,048	32,779,173	84,524,132	73,974,675
3923.90.00	3.00	17,863,393	21,607,638	12,338,360	16,283,567	6,623,586	18,693,312	22,208,165

Total of above lines in HS 39		231,004,813	242,954,502	260,662,054	275,100,586	123,946,465	300,813,540	264,741,403
Total imports from India by the US for all of HS 39		398,576,533	520,092,716	467,224,240	611,775,078	226,406,080	652,131,509	622,211,992

Source: *USITC*

This indicates that there was some balancing effect which reduced the extent of loss in exports in 2020 but the ten HS 39 items in GSP-100, that together accounted for over 50% of GSP imports from India into the US with a value of US \$ 265 m in 2020, also showed a similar trade trend. After rising in value till 2019 to US\$ 301 m, they declined by over 10%, pointing again to a possible impact from the GSP withdrawal.

What also needs to be noted is that in respect of articles of apparel and clothing accessories (including gloves, mittens and mitts) of plastics, falling under HS 392620, China's exports trebled from US\$ 864 m in 2019 to US\$ 2.7 bn in 2020, despite the additional duties, thanks to the COVID-19 induced demand. This was an item on which India was eligible for GSP concessions (but did not figure in GSP-100). Imports from India into the US of this item fell from US\$ 4.6 m in 2018 to US\$ 3.3 m in 2019 before rising to US\$ 7.97 million in 2020, despite the huge rise in demand. The prohibition of exports of this item by the DGFT till 28 August 2020⁵ could have restrained India's exports from doing better.

Rubber and rubber products (HS 40)

Imports into the US from India of rubber products (HS 40) increased sharply from US\$ 418 mn in 2017 to US\$ 608 mn in 2019 but declined in 2020 to US\$ 552 mn, accounting for a 2.05% import share. China was the largest source of import till 2018 with a 14.4% share, but this lead passed over to Thailand in 2019 which further consolidated its position in 2020 to acquire a share of 15.53%. Malaysia too improved its standing to take the second position with a 10.36% share.

India's top five export items to the US at 4-digit level were HS 4011 (new pneumatic tyres), HS 4016 (articles of unhardened vulcanised rubber), HS 4009 (tubes, pipes and hoses of unhardened vulcanised rubber), HS 4010 (conveyer or transmission belts) and HS 4008 (plates, sheets, strips, rods and profile shapes). Except for HS 4003 (reclaimed rubber in primary form) and HS 4015 (articles of apparel and clothing accessories), which registered an increase in

⁵ See <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/044dee49-bea7-4bf0-9cb7-5511f5cdab52/Noti%20%2029%20Eng.pdf>

export values in 2020, the remaining HS chapters including the top five products registered a decline in export value to the US in 2020.

A third of India's exports of HS 40 were receiving GSP concessions till June 2019. There were also five tariff lines, three relating to new pneumatic tyres and two relating to other rubber products, which figured in GSP-100 with high GSP utilisation rates. US imports from India in the case of radial tyres used in buses and trucks (HS 40112010) went up from US\$ 10.65 m in 2018 to US\$ 39.2 m in 2019, which increased further in 2020 to US\$ 57.6m despite the GSP withdrawal and with a 4% MFN duty. As Table 10 shows, total US imports of this item actually declined in 2020 but India's market share rose, thanks to a sharp drop in China's share. Thailand benefitted even more significantly, as its market share increased from 14.9% (US\$ 596 million) in 2017 to US\$ 1.19 bn (28.37% in 2020). Despite Canada being an important source of imports, its market shares declined from 21% in 2017 (USD 872 million) to 16.76% (USD 705 million) in 2020.

Table 11: Imports from India and China of HS 4011.20.10 in US dollars

	HS CHAPTER	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
CHINA	4011.20.10		776,276,335 (19.45)*		1,165,574,074 (26.16)		397,308,408 (8.70)	152,443,064 (3.62)
INDIA	4011.20.10	12,105,447	12,163,190 (0.30)	10,530,021	10,636,235 (0.24)	8,866,545	39,190,439 (0.86)	57,613,494 (1.37)

Source: *USITC*

*market share

It is of course possible that India's exports may have been even higher if GSP had continued for the item. But there were also limitations brought about by production disruptions in the rubber sector due to COVID-19⁶. In fact, in the case of the other four tariff lines in GSP-100, there were significant declines in 2020 as seen from Table 12.

⁶ <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/impact-of-pandemic-stretches-into-the-rubber-market/article33077412.ece>

Table 12: Imports of GSP-100 items in HS 40 from India into the US in US\$

HS CHAPTERS	MFN tariffs	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
4011.20.10	4.00	12,105,447	12,163,190	10,540,190	10,647,174	8,892,162	39,220,507	57,645,484
4011.80.20	4.00	5,346,848	6,095,758	15,845,477	15,955,162	9,904,681	24,480,858	21,954,182
4011.80.80	3.40	22,165,799	23,675,297	28,949,389	32,043,397	11,558,245	31,340,879	23,371,419
4016.91.00	2.70	18,628,190	24,759,653	17,955,308	24,987,567	7,629,620	25,628,347	19,466,537
4016.99.15	2.70	14,874,505	15,297,260	15,646,727	15,897,540	8,071,979	18,217,048	15,810,916
Total of above lines in HS 40		73,120,789	81,991,158	88,937,091	99,530,840	46,056,687	138,887,639	138,248,538
Total imports from India into the US for all of HS 40		137,563,249	417,772,739	167,669,407	512,496,543	91,643,445	607,634,806	552,464,413

Source: *USITC****Labour intensive items- Leather goods and Apparel***

Labour intensive consumer items like leather goods (HS 42) and apparel (HS 61 and 62) witnessed reduced demand in the US during 2020, with imports shrinking in each category by over 15 to 20%. While China continued losing market share in these items after 2018, this was picked up principally by Vietnam, Cambodia and other South East Asian countries. India benefited somewhat in 2019 from the China contraction, but because of its supply constraints in 2020, could not sustain the benefit⁷. Thus, while India was able to increase its share in US imports in each of HS 42, 61 and 62 to 4.63%, 4.22% and 5.76% respectively in 2019, these shares declined to 4.32%, 4.04% and 5.07% in 2020. The widespread economic lockdowns during the year limited India's ability to derive advantage. ASEAN countries, however, collectively doubled their share in leather goods between 2017 and 2020 and also did well in

⁷ See for example the statement by the President of the NOIDA apparel export cluster indicating absence of any production between March and June in 2020 accessible at <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/noida-news/rise-in-prices-of-raw-materials-hits-noida-s-garment-sector-101619115771415.html>

garments. Bangladesh too improved its position in respect of woven apparel (HS 62) from a 9.96% share in 2018 to 11.03% in 2020, and in knitted apparel from 3.17% to 4.36% during the same period. The sharp increase in import shares, particularly by Cambodia and Vietnam, raised questions whether some of these were reshipped goods from China⁸.

More than 50% of imports from India into the US of leather articles under HS 42 were covered by the GSP scheme in 2018; MFN duties on leather products are in the range of 2.8% to 9% in the US. India's exports in each one of the seven tariff lines in GSP-100 (see Table 13) that belonged to HS 42 underwent declines in 2020 compared to 2019, and together they added up to US\$ 240 m in 2020, against US\$ 321 m in 2019, a decline of 25.3%. Compared to 2018 the decline was 20.5%. India's leather industry also suffered supply constraints due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. The initial lockdown imposed in 2020 led to closure of leather clusters in Kanpur and Tamil Nadu. During that period, importers from US, UK, France, Italy, Spain and Germany were apparently negotiating for lower prices, making exports uncompetitive.⁹¹⁰ ASEAN countries like the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia and Thailand continued to receive GSP benefits in 2020 for HS 42, and they ranked among the top exporters to the USA for HS 42.

⁸ See <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-china-cambodia-idUSKCN1TK0QR>

⁹ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/indias-leather-exports-decline-283-to-33-billion-in-2020-21/article34388740.ece>

¹⁰ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-leather-industry-stares-at-export-loss-of-1-5-billion/articleshow/75710324.cms?from=mdr>

Table 13: Imports of GSP-100 items from HS 42 from India into the US in US\$

HS CHAPTERS	MFN tariffs	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
4201.00.60	2.80	19,821,844	27,647,720	21,041,174	30,622,035	9,248,488	36,326,948	34,779,386
4202.21.90	9.00	11,259,874	25,623,887	30,975,223	37,919,722	15,983,816	46,522,103	32,686,947
4202.31.60	8.00	33,259,341	89,908,345	76,991,827	94,490,046	28,188,322	89,014,461	60,781,043
4202.32.10	-	16,248,893	16,940,856	19,390,020	19,758,136	8,206,935	25,085,700	18,999,541
4202.91.90	4.50	21,899,681	42,892,290	42,168,773	49,085,890	13,538,613	45,291,909	28,650,905
4202.92.15	6.30	8,647,897	27,030,350	23,854,144	29,960,734	13,253,778	33,109,273	28,867,393
4203.30.00	2.70	38,928,283	43,271,944	36,193,024	39,788,786	15,086,064	45,760,397	35,215,318
Total of above lines in HS 42		150,065,813	273,315,392	250,614,185	301,625,349	103,506,016	321,110,791	239,980,533
Imports from India into US for all of HS 42		174,339,893	479,023,069	306,997,208	539,083,320	136,247,323	597,595,846	443,668,343

Source: *USITC*

Very few apparel items from India were eligible for GSP concessions in 2017/2018 and none figured in GSP-100. Imports of HS 61 products from India into the US under GSP increased from US\$ 2.1 m in 2017 to US\$ 3.1 m in 2019, but declined to US\$ 2.0 m in 2020.

In respect of GSP eligible HS 62 products, the decline was more steep, from US\$ 8.41 m in 2017 to US\$ 3.8 m in 2019 and US\$ 1.6 m in 2020. Table 14 illustrates this product wise, and it can be seen for example that in an item like women's or girls silk dresses (HS 62044910), in which the GSP utilisation rate was above 50%, imports into the US from India declined from US\$ 10 m in 2018 to US\$ 6.7 m in 2020.

Table 14: Imports from India of selected HS 62 items into the USA in US\$

HTS Number	Description	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2019	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total import in 2020
6204.39.60	Women's or girls' suit-type jackets and blazers, not knitted/crocheted, of textile materials nesoi, cont. 70% + of silk or silk waste	904,010	646,133	678,038	478,004	729,121	94,326	687,193
6204.49.10	Women's or girls' dresses, not knitted or crocheted, containing 70% or more by weight of silk or silk waste	10,186,075	5,322,817	9,965,200	4,958,367	9,382,576	2,813,836	6,738,606
6213.90.05	Handkerchiefs, not knitted or crocheted, containing 70% or more by weight of silk or silk waste	50,246	15,618	19,849	5,869	5,716	1,080	20,048
6214.10.10	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, not knitted or crocheted, containing 70% or more silk or silk waste	2,863,760	1,630,677	2,580,431	1,207,491	3,305,848	477,474	1,948,065
6216.00.08	Gloves, mittens & mitts, for sports, including ski & snowmobile gloves, etc., not knitted/crocheted, impreg. or cov. with plastic/rubber	5,865	1,132	4,755	1,695	26,033	252	24,434
6216.00.46	Gloves, mittens & mitts, for sports use, incl. ski & snowmobile, of man-made fibers, not impregnated/coated with plastics or rubber	124,997	85,888	48,300	8,261	30,497	0	29,448

HTS Number	Description	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2019	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total import in 2020
6217.10.85	Headbands, ponytail holders and similar articles, of textile materials containing < 70% by weight of silk, not knit/crochet	809,324	709,474	731,809	647,395	1,060,471	499,144	704,707
Total of above lines in HS 62		14,944,277	8,411,739	14,028,382	7,307,082	14,540,262	3,886,112	10,152,501
Total imports of HS 62 from India		2,039,773,974	8,411,739	2,118,595,583	7,307,082	2,236,985,215	3,886,112	1,631,062,601

Source: USITC

Made up textile items including bed, table and toilet linen (HS 63)

Imports from all sources into the US of made-up textiles (HS 63) increased sharply by as much as 85% during the year to US\$ 29.6 bn, with a 135% increase in imports from China which enabled the latter to acquire a 71% market share. The import surge was accounted for by just 'Made up articles of textile materials' (HS 6307 that included face masks) whose imports into the US shot up to US\$16.2 bn in 2020. US imports of HS 6307 from India, however, increased from USD 106 million in 2017 to USD 119 million in 2019 and USD 127 million in 2020.

Indian exporters could not benefit from the opportunity under this category. Notifications issued by DFGT from 31st January 2020 to 28th July 2020¹¹ (total 8 notifications on various dates) prohibited/ restricted export of certain masks under HS 630790, in addition to other items falling under different HS lines (392690, 621790, 901890 and 9020). This resulted in some loss of export business and helped Chinese suppliers to take advantage. It was only on 25th August 2020 that many such items were freed from export restrictions¹².

India has traditionally been the second largest supplier of cotton made-ups to the US, but with face masks and other requirements distorting the picture, imports from India into the US of HS 63 items overall declined by 5% to US\$ 2.4bn in 2020 from US\$ 2.55 bn in 2019. India's share of US imports also disproportionately dwindled from 15.9% in 2019 to 8.1% because of the hugely expanded market size. Even at the four-digit level, imports into the US from India dropped in four of the five top 4-digit lines.

Table 15: Imports from India of top 5 items under HS 63 into the USA in US\$

HTS Number	Description	2017	2018	2019	2020
6302	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen	1,871,407,428	1,865,817,971	1,872,468,137	1,747,662,327
6305	Sacks and bags, of textile materials, used for the packing of goods	172,414,132	217,326,200	244,889,915	228,538,726
6304	Furnishing articles of textile materials nesoi	133,203,039	133,693,363	138,900,668	138,266,018
6301	Blankets and traveling rugs	126,735,666	115,225,515	109,452,281	87,799,809
6307	Made-up articles of textile materials nesoi	106,460,882	107,329,278	119,092,044	127,735,551

Source: *USITC*

¹¹ <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/e576fbb1-b0f9-4276-913e-cab13010b16b/Noti%2021%20Eng.pdf>

¹² <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/044dee49-bea7-4bf0-9cb7-5511f5cdab52/Noti%20%2029%20Eng.pdf>

There was only one HS 63 item in GSP-100, HS 63079098 (national flags and other made-up articles of textile materials, nesoi) in which imports by the US from India rose by 13.1% in 2020, even as the MFN rate was 7% and India's utilisation

Table 16: Imports of GSP eligible items in HS 63 from India into the US in US\$

HS CHAPTERS	MFN tariffs	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
6307.90.98	7.00	63,184,736	69,971,254	66,969,091	76,886,765	30,141,408	84,303,306	95,342,863
6304.99.25	11.30	101,223	114,233	35,249	43,649	52,364	65,389	161,737
6307.90.85	5.80	72,679	96,521	106,499	137,546	127,494	296,669	275,698
Total of above lines in HS 63		63,358,638	70,182,008	67,110,839	77,067,960	30,321,266	84,665,364	95,780,298
Imports from India into US for all of HS 63		63,358,638	2,477,566,863	67,109,217	2,505,218,857	30,321,784	2,548,611,780	2,405,919,522

Source: USITC

Rate in respect of this item had been high. India may have benefitted even more if GSP concessions had been there and there had been no DGFT restriction on its exports. The US's total imports of HS 63079098 in 2020 were US\$ 17 bn, and China's market share in this category increased from 72% in 2019 to 85% in 2020. Countries such as Cambodia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Burma and Indonesia, availing GSP benefits, saw an increase in import shares of HS 63079098, benefitting from India's absence (see Table 17). The following table highlights the imports of HS 63079098 under the GSP scheme from the top 5 GSP eligible countries and from India¹³ for 2019 and 2020.

Table 17: Import values and market shares of countries enjoying GSP for HS 63079098 in US\$

Country	Year 2019	Year 2020
Cambodia	2,515,877 (2.68)*	30,389,813 (30.14)
Pakistan	25,300,721 (27.05)	30,262,521 (30.02)
Sri Lanka	3,276,230 (3.50)	7,112,387 (7.05)
Burma	2,076,898 (2.22)	6,128,360 (6.07)

¹³ In the case of India the GSP concession was available only till early June 2019 but thereafter withdrawn.

Country	Year 2019	Year 2020
Indonesia	3,463,064 (3.70)	5,727,974 (5.68)
India	30,141,408 (32.22)	0
Total of HS 63079098	93,532,458	100,806,447

Source: USITC

*market share

Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica etc., HS 68

Marble and granite (HS 68) imports into the US from India rose from US\$ 439 m in 2017 to US\$ 678 m in 2019 but declined to US\$ 590m in 2020. While India appears to have benefitted from the shrinking of the Chinese share from 26.3% in 2018 to 13.6% in 2019, this did not sustain in 2020 even as the Chinese share went down further to 12.2% in 2020.

At the 4-digit level, imports from India into the US of HS 6802 (worked building stones) increased marginally from US\$ 313 m in 2019 to US\$ 319 m in 2020 and was the top item. The remaining products at the 4-digit level declined in import values. Countries like Brazil and Mexico fared better in 2020. Supply constraints could have been a factor in limiting India's exports¹⁴.

The GSP withdrawal may have also had some impact. A third of India's exports in HS 68 used to benefit from GSP coverage. Three HS 68 tariff lines figured in GSP-100 which together added up to imports of US\$ 150 m into the US in each of the years 2017 and 2018, but declined to US\$ 135 m in 2019 and further to US\$ 128 m in 2020 (see Table 18). That said, imports in respect of HS 68029105 actually rose to US\$ 48.5 mn in 2020, notwithstanding the absence of GSP. Considering that the US demand for HS 68029105 also declined from US\$ 467 m in 2018 to US\$ 456 m and further to US\$ 443 million in 2020, the absence of GSP was not a factor in this case, also because the MFN duty was only 2.5%

¹⁴ See for example a blog by one Tirumala Rao of Sterling Stonex in July 2020. 'The stone companies are working with great difficulties to fulfill orders. The virus is still spreading and has created a severe shortage of skilled labour in the quarries and factories because they people have gone back to their villages. There is no consistency of supply from the quarries. There are also restrictions in movement of people from one state to another, which makes workers reluctant to return.'

Table 18: Imports of GSP-100 items in HS 68 from India into the US in US\$

HS CHAPTER S	MFN tariffs	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
6802.91.05	2.50	33,718,623	35,499,402	35,336,824	37,548,878	16,064,046	41,296,082	48,487,429
6802.91.15	4.90	24,771,755	26,462,135	27,039,832	30,333,780	9,858,115	31,097,502	29,224,483
6802.99.00	6.50	86,081,273	88,838,138	77,861,913	80,885,709	31,075,565	63,084,462	50,065,311
Total of above lines in HS 68		144,571,651	150,799,675	140,238,569	148,768,367	56,997,726	135,478,046	127,777,223
Total for all of HS 68		166,984,060	439,404,505	165,662,450	475,548,223	69,256,034	678,766,973	589,675,795

Source: USITC

Machinery items (HS 84)

India's exports of machinery items (HS 84) to the US grew from US \$2.5 bn in 2017 to US\$ 3.77 bn in 2019, thus crossing a 1% market share, but declined to US\$ 3.1 bn in 2020. While the US's imports from all global sources declined by 4.9% in 2020, imports from India declined by 17.5%. Competitors like Thailand did better. China, whose market share came down from 31.1% in 2018 to 24.6% in 2019, was able to push back in 2020 with a 27.28% share, thanks to a significant increase in demand in a COVID-19 year for home appliances and computers.

Among the lead items at the 4-digit level, imports into the US from India of taps, cocks and valves - HS 8481- increased from US\$ 334 million in 2017 to US\$ 469 million in 2019 but declined to US\$ 318 million in 2020. Imports of transmission shafts -HS 8483 - rose from US\$ 311 million in 2017 to US\$ 554 million in 2019 but declined to US\$ 397 million in 2020. HS 8413, 8409 and 8414 also featured among the top five products, but their import values declined from 2018 onwards as shown in Table 19.

Table 19: Imports into the US from India of the top 5 four digit lines under HS 84 in US\$

HTS Number	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020
8481	334,947,319	458,768,650	469,402,169	318,144,647
8483	311,476,826	459,714,979	554,813,833	397,648,652
8413	237,985,188	312,890,852	293,132,874	177,958,120
8409	214,238,021	291,618,266	277,037,538	194,952,775
8414	167,921,844	200,161,613	196,524,466	138,032,545
Total imports from India of HS 84	2,499,783,259	3,342,773,171	3,753,986,119	3,096,035,371

Source: *USITC*

The GSP coverage of India's exports in 2017/18 extended to a little over 20% in HS 84. The MFN duties ranged from 0 to 5%. Among GSP-100, there were 14 lines from HS 84 and India's GSP utilisation rates in these were in the range of 70% (Table 20). In only one case, that of machines carrying out individual functions (HS 84798994), India registered a rise in exports in 2020 despite the GSP withdrawal, with imports into US from India doubling to US\$ 60 m in 2020. In a good number of other tariff lines related to auto parts, imports from India peaked in 2018 or 2019 but declined significantly in 2020.

The GSP withdrawal could have been a factor in pulling down these exports. This is because while the imports into the US from India of the 14 GSP-100 items together declined by 30% from US\$ 837 m in 2019 to US\$ 582 m in 2020, the total imports into the US from India of HS 84 items declined by only 17.5%. Moreover, even in relation to the import levels of these GSP-100 items in 2018, the imports in 2020 into the US were around 22% less.

Table 20: Imports of GSP-100 items in HS 84 from India into the US in US\$

MFN Tariffs 2018	HS CHAPTERS	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
2.50	8409.91.50	17,526,123	18,468,302	20,019,992	25,922,977	10,720,355	28,406,990	25,636,448
2.50	8409.91.99	21,226,985	26,446,477	17,110,211	26,408,718	7,507,876	26,442,910	12,912,499
2.50	8409.99.91	56,706,229	78,352,088	89,567,422	115,731,725	26,784,945	110,191,722	72,364,348
1.25	8413.30.90	9,251,918	17,163,594	10,348,384	20,643,320	3,552,744	18,013,111	12,716,998
3.10	8477.10.90	9,300,336	11,095,181	12,974,904	13,622,438	2,979,948	13,525,428	6,573,268
1.25	8479.89.94	15,819,616	24,109,787	15,437,214	29,241,033	9,811,369	30,277,335	59,898,693
2.80	8481.80.30	87,546,572	102,759,507	103,641,454	121,026,667	41,820,626	111,777,823	85,489,086
2.00	8481.80.90	27,599,900	43,980,632	24,231,060	51,952,372	9,712,141	51,212,251	30,225,126
5.00	8481.90.30	14,656,794	20,504,587	31,267,416	39,790,100	15,113,891	44,246,271	25,475,260
1.25	8483.10.30	66,580,458	76,428,890	75,728,417	134,107,634	32,259,586	126,075,702	70,411,531
1.25	8483.40.50	52,568,760	64,327,162	56,857,285	96,213,482	22,561,911	206,046,310	134,542,756
1.25	8483.90.50	37,092,450	50,075,841	41,660,594	61,186,134	17,898,806	58,326,869	46,055,338
1.25	8484.90.00	5,920,601	7,688,769	10,024,882	11,314,709	5,386,058	12,567,658	6,81,532
	Total of above lines in HS 84	421,796,742	541,400,817	508,869,235	747,161,309	206,110,256	837,110,380	582,301,351
	Import from India for all of HS 84	621,553,479	2,499,783,259	737,131,775	3,345,875,225	309,315,287	3,764,094,062	3,106,669,242

Source: USITC

Automotives and parts (HS 87)

Imports of transport vehicles and parts (HS 87) from India into the US rose two fold from US\$ 1.38 bn in 2017 to US\$ 2.75 bn 2018, resulting in India doubling its market share from 0.47% to 0.91%. India's main item of export under this chapter were automotive parts under HS 8708 and motor cars under HS 8703. The latter rose sharply in 2018. In 2019 too, India was more or less able to maintain its market share at 0.89%, but imports from India into the US declined by 23.5% in 2020, as against a decline in the US's total imports of HS 87 by only 17.7% during the year. Imports from India stood at US\$ 2.1 bn and brought India's market share down to 0.83% in 2020.

The three other top five 4-digit HS lines in India's exports to the US were HS 8701, 8706 and 8711 (see Table 21), in all of which imports into the US from India showed an increase in 2020. Imports of HS 8706 also registered an increase in market share from 21% in 2018 to 83 % in 2020, but the market shares of the remaining products declined in 2020.

Table 21: Imports from India into the US of the top five 4-digit lines in HS 87 in US\$

HTS Number	Description	2017	2018	2019	2020	Percentage change in 2020 over 2019
8708	Parts and accessories for tractors, public-transport passenger vehicles, motor cars, goods transport motor vehicles and special purpose motor vehicles	985,768,399	1,201,999,669	1,297,705,595	977,848,688	-24.6
8703	Motor cars and other motor vehicles designed to transport people (other than public-transport type), including station wagons and racing cars	104,858,614	1,084,340,805	1,149,848,909	790,891,184	-31.21
8701	Tractors (other than works trucks of heading 8709)	221,371,339	319,709,275	186,408,209	215,881,642	15.81
8706	Chassis fitted with engines for tractors, motor vehicles for passengers, goods transport vehicles and	15,288,206	17,893,267	42,719,941	44,650,497	4.51

HTS Number	Description	2017	2018	2019	2020	Percentage change in 2020 over 2019
	special purpose motor vehicles					
8711	Motorcycles (including mopeds) and cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor, with or without sidecars; sidecars	16,227,108	27,273,728	24,764,682	33,522,794	35.36
Total of above lines		1,378,073,812	2,751,792,456	2,744,693,122	2,102,418,315	-30.54

Source: *USITC*

*market share

In HS 87, the US GSP scheme covered 39% of India's exports in 2017 and 24.4% in 2018 (see Table 22). India's GSP utilisation rate was high in this chapter, with close to 90% utilisation in 2017 and 2018. There were ten lines of HS 87 in GSP-100 and the MFN duty was 2.5% for nine of them and 3.1% for the axles of trailers etc. under HS 8716.

Table 22: Imports of HS 87 at eight-digit line into the USA in US\$

MFN Tariffs 2018	HS CHAPTERS	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
2.50	8708.40.75	75,646,411	79,508,508	78,272,697	85,791,211	30,864,968	81,895,555	58,919,714
2.50	8708.50.89	20,309,540	22,758,326	28,290,848	32,245,026	8,799,269	33,241,784	33,369,795
2.50	8708.50.99	24,442,224	28,345,232	26,890,995	38,535,440	19,320,669	73,242,683	47,220,785
2.50	8708.70.45	52,682,411	53,708,096	76,698,820	77,679,191	23,174,578	39,898,915	14,401,967
2.50	8708.80.65	36,116,654	40,332,032	45,168,054	48,666,206	13,105,275	33,294,932	32,740,598
2.50	8708.93.75	13,315,764	13,381,361	12,119,638	14,519,853	4,702,442	14,536,506	7,981,688
2.50	8708.94.75	116,356,054	125,698,616	138,053,302	148,630,111	57,019,086	130,277,033	77,276,315
2.50	8708.99.68	34,560,656	41,954,984	52,509,260	62,786,750	30,286,904	94,951,709	80,237,835
2.50	8708.99.81	105,316,626	122,231,632	121,684,948	146,807,723	66,762,118	172,508,983	121,826,170
3.10	8716.90.50	5,590,307	6,383,137	13,975,090	16,613,272	7,301,272	16,636,818	17,921,104
	Total of above lines in HS 87	484,336,647	534,301,924	593,663,652	672,274,783	261,336,581	690,484,918	491,895,971
	Total for all of HS 87	538,504,030	1,378,073,812	667,787,758	2,753,177,217	304,293,164	2,750,016,484	2,103,336,067

Source: USITC

Imports from India into the US rose in 2020 only in respect of two lines relating to axles. In respect of the other eight lines in GSP-100, imports from India either peaked in 2018 or 2019 and saw a significant drop in 2020. The total imports of the ten GSP-100 lines amounted to US\$ 492 m in 2020 as against US\$ 690 m in 2019, a drop of 29%. Similarly, in relation to their imports in 2018 the levels in 2020 were 27% less. Considering the level of GSP utilisation, its withdrawal could have been an important factor in this level of decline.

Miscellaneous base metal items (HS 83)

Imports of miscellaneous metal items (HS 83) from India into the US rose from US\$ 233 mn in 2017 to US\$ 281 m in 2019, increasing also India's market share from 2.03% to 2.23% during this period. These however declined to US\$ 257 mn in 2020 and India's market share also dropped to 2.17%. China's market share also declined from 45% in 2018 to 40% in 2020, but both Mexico and Taiwan were able to increase their shares. Imports from Vietnam, which were only US\$ 62 mn in 2017, rose three times to US\$ 188 mn by 2020.

The US GSP scheme covered 44% of India's exports in 2017/18 and there were two lines from HS 83 that figured among GSP-100 (see Table 23). In respect of one item, HS 83023030 (base metal mountings and fittings for vehicles) on which GSP utilisation was around 51%, imports slid slightly from US\$41 mn in 2018 to US\$ 39 mn in 2019 but more steeply to US\$ 24 mn in 2020. This could have been partly due to GSP withdrawal, particularly because India's share declined from 2.06% in 2018 to 1.53% in 2020.

Table 23: Imports of GSP -100 items in HS 83 from India into the US in in US\$

MFN Tariffs 2018	HS CHAPTERS	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
2.00	8302.30.30	17,077,538	32,733,875	20,163,760	40,557,300	8,862,163	39,264,838	24,473,771
2.60	8309.90.00	15,984,263	16,292,656	13,888,816	14,339,649	5,156,793	15,110,510	20,085,701
	Total of above lines in HS 83	33,061,801	49,026,531	34,052,576	54,896,949	14,018,956	54,375,348	44,559,472
	Total for all of HS 83	102,243,711	233,388,137	117,621,075	269,448,417	47,734,919	280,805,829	257,628,681

Source: *USITC*

In respect of the second item HS 83099000 (base metal stoppers, caps, lids), the demand in the US was high, with US imports increasing from US\$ 555 million in 2017 to US\$ 725 million in 2020. India's exports also rose by a third in 2020 from US\$ 15 mn to US\$ 20 mn and its market share rose from 2.38% in 2019 to 2.78% in 2020. This was despite the GSP withdrawal and the fact that the

item attracted a 2.6% MFN duty and there was a high GSP utilisation rate of 97% in 2018.

C: HS chapters in which India's exports showed a mixed trend and were driven by sector specific dynamics

Products belonging to HS 27, 38, 71, 73 and 76 followed somewhat different trends, as we shall see below. There may, however, have been some impact of GSP withdrawal on imports of a couple of these items, while reduced demand would be another.

Energy and fuel items (HS 27)

In respect of exports of HS 27 products (Energy and fuel), India remains a marginal supplier to the US market, exporting mainly petroleum oils. Imports from India into the US rose steadily from US\$ 2.55 bn in 2017 to US\$ 3.44 bn in 2019, but halved in 2020 at US\$ 1.71 bn. However, considering that the overall imports by the US of HS 27 items dropped by 38.6% during the year, both due to price drops and demand shrinkage, India's share declined from 1.91% to 1.4%. While shares of Canada, Mexico and Russia rose during the year, those of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Nigeria declined sizeably.

India's main exports to the US are of light petroleum oils (HS 271012) and other petroleum oils (HS 271019). Imports from India into the US under HS 271012 increased from US\$ 1.55 bn in 2017 to US\$ 2.08 bn in 2019, but declined to US\$ 1.21 bn in 2020. Its market shares however steadily rose from 8.21% to 9.49% during this period. Market shares for HS 271019 rose from 2.62% in 2017 to 3.43% in 2019, but declined to 2.34% in 2020.

Miscellaneous chemicals (HS 38)

In respect of HS 38, imports by the US from all sources went up by 24.4% during 2020 to US\$ 17.8 bn, spurred by COVID-19 created demand. China was the principal source of imports with a 15.5% market share, up from only 9.1% in 2019. While imports from Canada, Japan and Germany also rose, their market shares declined in the light of larger imports from China. Imports into the US of HS 38 items from India steadily declined from US\$ 435 m in 2017 to US\$ 303 m in 2020, and its market share has almost halved from 3.07% in 2017 to 1.7% in 2020.

At the four-digit level, HS 3808 (Insecticides, herbicides etc.) contributed the most to US imports from India. However, imports into the US from India of HS 3808 declined from US\$ 234 m in 2017 (11.79% market share) to US\$ 121 million

(6.01% market share). This is notwithstanding the fact that US imports of HS 3808, which declined from US\$ 1.9 billion in 2017 to US\$ 1.2 billion in 2019, rose to US\$ 2.01 billion in 2020.

On the other hand, HS 3822 (composite diagnostic and laboratory reagents) was the leading four-digit line among US imports of HS 38 from all sources, and these rose from US\$ 3.92 bn in 2019 to US\$ 5.28 bn in 2020, clearly a COVID-19 generated increase. Imports into the US from India of HS 3822, however, have remained small even as they increased from US\$ 8.79 million in 2019 (0.22% market share) to US\$ 14.67 m in 2020. US imports of HS 3822 from the UK, Germany, Canada, China and Singapore were far higher.

There were only two lines in HS 38 in GSP-100 in which the GSP utilisation rates were also high. Table 24 gives import details in respect of key lines which were GSP eligible in 2017/18. In the case of activated carbon (HS 38021000), imports into the US from India reached a peak of US \$ 48.6 m in 2018, then declined slightly to US\$ 46.9 m in 2019, followed by a steeper decline to US\$ 34.4 m in 2020. With the MFN duty on this item at 4.5%, GSP withdrawal could have been a factor in the decline. India's market share declined from 23% in 2018 to 21.94% in 2019 and further to 18.97% in 2020. The market share of Sri Lanka (ranking second in imports to the US), which declined from 15.5% in 2018 to 14.7% in 2019, increased to 18.11% in 2020.

As for industrial monocarboxylic fatty acids (HS 38231920), imports from India into the US steadily declined from US\$ 35.5m in 2017 to US\$ 18.7 m in 2020. With the declining trend preceding the GSP withdrawal, there may have been other factors responsible for the slide. The MFN duty on this item was also low at 2.3%. India appears to have in fact lost market share to Indonesia for this item, with India's share declining steadily from 11.45% in 2017 to 6.82% in 2020. In contrast, Indonesia's market share increased steadily from 27.20% in 2017 to 47.97% in 2020. Indonesia was receiving GSP benefits during this period.

There was one item HS 38089315 (Herbicides) in GSP-100, in which the GSP utilisation remained poor, despite a 6.5% MFN duty, but where imports into the US from India rose in 2020 to US\$ 42.5 m from US\$ 26.4 m in 2019. Imports into the US of this item from India were even higher in 2017, amounting to US\$ 46 m. Table 25 provides the imports into the US from India of significant GSP eligible lines in HS 38, including the two lines in GSP-100, and it is a mixed bag with imports rising in certain cases and declining in others in 2020. Together, they showed a decline to US\$ 114m in 2020 as against US\$ 120 m in 2019, in an year when US imports of HS 38 items climbed by 24.4%.

Table 24: Imports under key GSP eligible lines from HS 38 from India into the US in US\$

HS CHAPTERS	MFN tariffs	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
3802.10.00	4.80	38,227,531	38,593,700	47,505,871	48,565,162	20,913,180	46,856,250	34,446,819
3808.91.25	6.50	2,274,548	10,871,881	4,719,916	12,635,889	2,834,585	9,587,215	1,904,994
3808.91.30	5.00	2,629,738	14,826,954	1,271,532	3,353,062	3,288,000	6,064,729	2,280,438
3808.93.15	6.50	4,085,577	46,374,696	4,527,831	27,829,548	1,527,115	26,433,143	42,500,538
3808.99.08	6.50	484,960	484,960	957,600	1,058,400	99,977	221,775	681,830
3823.19.20	2.30	34,645,473	35,534,980	25,252,051	27,660,548	8,497,767	20,708,884	18,679,238
3824.99.28	3.25	1,334,432	4,441,553	519,527	3,934,889	1,235,860	4,825,482	7,128,459
3824.99.41	4.60	8,699,247	8,699,247	5,205,111	5,208,191	1,731,442	5,801,141	5,927,338
Total of above lines in HS 38		92,381,506	159,827,971	89,959,439	130,245,689	40,127,926	120,498,619	113,549,654
Total for all of HS 38		103,950,907	434,711,823	105,955,127	398,314,814	56,554,055	315,998,140	303,147,871

Source: USITC

Gem and jewellery (HS 71)

HS 71 contributes the maximum in value to India's exports to the US, and here imports into the US from India declined from US\$ 12.2 bn in 2018 to US\$ 11.26 bn in 2019 and further to US\$ 9.45 bn in 2020. India used to be the top source of import for the US for HS 71 items, but Switzerland took the top spot in 2020 with a 30% share during a year when US imports of HS 71 grew by 83% to US\$ 109 bn, thanks to a steep rise in bullion imports.

Cut and polished diamonds (HS 7102) is India's top export under this chapter and imports into the US from India rose from US\$ 8.55 bn in 2017 to a peak of US\$ 9.88 bn in 2018, but declined to US\$ 7.02 bn in 2020, apparently due to demand contraction. However, India's market share steadily increased from 37.61% in 2017 to 48.94% during this period. Imports from Israel, India's main competitor, increased from US\$ 7.44 bn (32.7% market share) in 2017 to USD\$ 7.89 bn in 2019, but declined to US\$ 3.46 bn in 2020 (24.16% market share).

Imports by the US from India of HS 7113 (articles of jewellery) increased from US\$ 1.74 bn (19.61% market share) in 2017 to US\$ 1.93 bn in 2019, but declined to

US\$ 1.71 bn (22.40% market share) in 2020. Imports from Italy declined from US\$ 950 m (10.68% market share) to US\$ 904 m in 2018, increasing to US\$ 964 m in 2020 (12.50% market share)

Artificial jewellery is an important segment, even if small in relative terms. One tariff line HS 71171990 (imitation jewellery of base metals) also figured in GSP-100. US imports from India declined from US\$ 15.83 mn in 2018 to US\$ 14.9 mn in 2019 and further to US\$ 11.2 mn in 2020. With an MFN tariff of 11% and a GSP utilisation rate close to 70% in 2018, the GSP withdrawal could have been factor behind the decline (see Table 25). But that said India's market share did increase marginally from 2.10% in 2018 to 2.34% in 2019 and to 2.51% in 2020. China, which ranked among the top sources of import, had its market share decline from 72% in 2018 to 60% in 2020.

Table 25: Imports of GSP-100 items in HS 71 from India into the US in US\$

MFN Tariffs 2018	HS CHAPTERS	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
11.00	7117.19.90	12,817,380	17,022,702	10,766,290	15,833,009	5,298,034	14,866,343	11,191,567
	Imports from India for all of HS 71	79,567,280	10,752,489,925	62,471,924	12,215,663,774	27,309,551	11,257,431,202	9,450,152,236

Source: USITC

Steel products (HS 73)

Steel products (HS 73) have remained important in India's exports to the US, with around 3.5% market share in US imports. But US imports have declined after March 2018, when the additional 25% duty was imposed on several steel items under Section 232 of US Trade Act on security grounds. Among the items that were subject to 25% duties were HS 7304-7306.¹⁵ Even in 2020, the decline in US imports was 13.5% from 2019.

China's share in US imports of HS 73 items had been around 31%. This declined to 28.2% in 2019 but climbed back to 31.23% in 2020. Imports from India into the US were US\$ 1.37 bn in 2017 with a 3.71% share, but declined to US\$ 1.19 bn in 2020 with a 3.55% share.

¹⁵ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-03-15/pdf/2018-05478.pdf>

Around 40% of India's exports of HS 73 were covered by GSP and India's utilisation rate in this chapter was high at 90%, even as the MFN duties ranged from 2% to 5.6%. Among the nine lines that figured in GSP-100 (see Table 27), imports into the US in respect of four lines more than halved from 2019 to 2020, where GSP withdrawal appears to have been a factor. In two lines HS 73239300 (stainless steel kitchen utensils) and 73269086 (residual other items), in each of which India's exports exceeded US\$ 100 mn, saw declines of only 10% and 5% respectively in 2020. Indeed, India's market shares of HS 73269086 increased from 9.44% in 2019 to 10.31% in 2020. Similarly, market shares of HS 73239300 increased from 10.81% in 2019 to 11.25% in 2020, indicating that the reduction in value in these two items may also have been due to reduced demand. In respect of HS 73239990 (other kitchen or household steel items), imports from India into the US went up from US\$ 40.1 mn in 2019 to US\$ 50 mn in 2020, despite the MFN duty being 3.4%. That said, US imports under the nine GSP-100 lines of HS-73, when taken together, declined 21% to US\$ 459 m in 2020 from US\$ 581 m in 2019. Seen in relation 2018 imports the decline was 18%.

Table 26: Imports of GSP-100 items in HS 73 from India into the US in US\$

MFN Tariffs 2018	HS CHAPTERS	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
5.60	7307.19.30	26,347,452	27,000,130	31,552,506	32,236,732	14,202,349	34,307,531	33,625,013
5.60	7307.21.50	49,071,755	50,783,350	45,645,350	46,888,769	29,214,456	62,987,470	25,925,164
5.50	7307.91.50	40,089,997	40,898,162	94,498,757	96,040,001	48,033,634	92,946,339	47,973,156
4.30	7307.99.50	31,831,886	32,920,209	29,673,737	31,422,126	15,398,088	34,867,300	16,224,963
2.00	7323.93.00	145,616,724	158,781,270	145,154,847	159,860,749	53,956,236	148,643,212	134,507,747
3.40	7323.99.90	32,522,926	36,488,898	35,698,746	38,160,235	17,267,018	40,116,455	50,264,887
2.90	7325.99.50	20,261,971	21,756,138	20,987,930	23,783,031	10,026,232	23,374,022	20,071,067
2.90	7326.19.00	16,635,627	17,743,778	13,729,326	14,997,656	7,315,163	13,936,626	7,274,362
2.90	7326.90.86	75,427,407	95,094,505	85,321,612	113,159,939	38,475,539	129,829,600	123,285,328
	Total of above lines in HS 73	437,805,745	481,466,440	502,262,811	556,549,238	233,888,715	581,008,555	459,151,687
	Total imports from India for all of HS 73	492,677,074	1,366,387,079	569,042,569	1,262,448,745	273,290,513	1,374,126,518	1,194,998,864

Source: *USITC*

Aluminium and aluminium products (HS 76)

US imports of aluminium and its products (HS 76) reached a peak of US \$ 23.4 bn in 2018, the year when it introduced the 10% tariffs on a range of aluminium items on security grounds. Thereafter, these declined by 10.2% in 2019 and by another 15.3% to US\$ 17.3 bn in 2020. Canada, China, Mexico and UAE are its main suppliers, with the first three countries also increasing their market shares in 2020.

India's share, which was around 2% in 2017, went up to 3.37% in 2019 but declined to 2.2% in 2020. Imports from India declined by 41% in 2020, reaching US\$ 389 mn. The top items of import from India in 2020 at the four-digit level were HS 7616 (other articles of aluminium), 7615 (table, kitchen or other household items) and 7605 (aluminium wires). The market share for HS 7616 increased from 6.8% in 2017 to 11.8% in 2020 and for HS 7615 from 6.86% in 2017 to 8.36% in 2020. Most significantly, for HS 7605, the share rose from a negligible 0.05% in 2017 to 12.88% in 2020.

At the same time, imports from India of unwrought aluminium (HS 7601) and aluminium plates and sheets (HS 7606) declined markedly. Import share of the former dropped from 54.08% in 2017 to 41.39% in 2020, and in respect of HS 7606 the decline was from 22.32% in 2017 to 10.08% in 2020. Demand by the US for unwrought aluminium, aluminium plates, household articles and structures from India declined in 2020, with the market share declining too. Table 27 below suggests that India's exports of aluminium wire (7605) and other articles of aluminium (7616) are increasing.

Table 27: Import trends of selected aluminium items to the US in US\$

HTS Number	Description	2017	2018	2019	2020
7601	Aluminium, unwrought	245,670,262 (2.35)*	433,545,688 (4.20)	387,887,067 (4.67)	160,469,614 (2.53)
7605	Aluminium wire	236,226 (0.03)	5,843,671 (0.81)	22,036,055 (3.61)	49,969,403 (7.97)
7606	Aluminium, plates, sheets and strips	101,435,721 (3.16)	119,312,850 (3.22)	124,308,875 (3.21)	39,108,890 (1.71)
7610	Aluminium structures	9,474,926 (0.70)	5,061,958 (0.32)	3,776,317 (0.23)	4,597,596 (0.26)
7615	Household articles	31,201,216 (2.84)	30,687,466 (2.75)	29,712,014 (2.60)	32,430,742 (2.35)
7616	Articles of aluminium	31,292,181 (1.94)	30,163,529 (1.71)	38,416,842 (2.28)	46,000,344 (2.78)
Total of above lines		419,310,352	624,615,162	606,137,170	332,576,589

Source: *USITC*

*market share

The US GSP scheme covered over 40% of India's exports of HS 76 items in 2017, but this was reduced to only 16% in 2018. Three HS 76 lines figured in GSP-100 (see Table 28). In respect of one of them, HS 76169951 (other articles of aluminium), imports by the US rose almost by a third to US\$ 42 mn in 2020, despite the absence of GSP plus the fact that the Section 232 duty of 10% also covered this tariff line. But on another item, HS 76151091 (pot scourers or scouring pads), in which India's GSP utilisation exceeded 90%, imports dropped 14% from US\$ 14.45 mn to 12.5 mn. Supplied mainly at the SME level, lockdowns during the year could have been a factor. But the largest item of import from India into the US was of HS 76061230 (rectangular aluminium alloy sheets), which increased from US\$ 100 mn in 2017 to US\$ 121 mn in 2019 but sharply declined to US\$ 36.4 m in 2020. This was principally due to the initiation of anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations on aluminium sheet imports from several countries, including India, in March 2020.

Table 28: Imports of GSP-100 items in HS 76 from India into the US in US\$

MFN Tariffs 2018	HS CHAPTERS	Imports under GSP in 2017	Total imports in 2017	Imports under GSP in 2018	Total imports in 2018	Imports under GSP in 2019	Total imports in 2019	Total imports in 2020
3.00	7606.12.30	99,313,964	99,717,736	40,166,347	115,519,373	20,024,467	121,042,922	36,394,049
3.10	7615.10.91	14,570,996	15,381,441	12,663,928	13,894,287	4,838,962	14,450,372	12,492,244
2.50	7616.99.51	23,080,548	29,334,892	17,125,456	27,380,079	7,857,075	31,383,503	41,645,357
	Total of above lines in HS 76	136,965,508	144,434,069	69,955,731	156,793,739	32,720,504	166,876,797	90,531,650
	Total imports from India for all of HS 76	191,724,292	454,258,567	109,279,107	671,769,041	46,901,678	663,120,430	389,346,273

Source: USITC

Summing up

The US is India's single largest export destination, and several dynamics were at play in the challenging year 2020. On the upside, opportunities existed from the continuation of additional tariffs imposed by the US on China. Demand in the US for certain items also spiked, triggered by COVID-19. On the downside, there were supply constraints in India due to the prolonged lockdown, the contraction in demand in the US for several products, the non-availability of the GSP scheme for Indian exports and the continuation of steel and aluminium tariffs.

Overall, imports by the US from India underwent a decline of 11.3% during the year from US\$ 57.7bn to US\$ 51.2 bn after a steady increase during the previous five years, starting from US\$ 44.8 bn in 2015. India's market share also declined from 2.3% in 2019 to 2.2% in 2020. India benefitted significantly in 2019 because of the additional tariffs on China imposed by the US from late 2018 onwards. This advantage however got reduced in several items in 2020 which saw an absolute growth in India's exports only in five of the twenty one leading sectors covered in this report. The ASEAN countries, Vietnam in particular, performed better in filling the space left by China, including in the apparel, leather, rubber products and electronics segments.

Impressive for India, however, was the fact that alongside ASEAN countries, India also did well in electrical and electronic machinery in which imports from India into the US have steadily gone up in recent years, including a 45% rise in 2020. Even though India's import share in the US is still less than 1% in this sector, with the launch of PLI initiatives there is considerable potential for future growth. In organic chemicals and bedding and furniture, India managed to improve its market share, even if marginally. In carpets, Turkey was able to quickly ramp up its exports to the US to meet the demand vacated by China. India only managed to retain its share.

India however lost market shares in thirteen sectors. Among them were labour intensive sectors such as leather goods and apparel, in which India had gained in 2019 because of trade diversion from China. While China's share in the US market for these sectors continued to decline in 2020, India could not fill the space due to supply constraints. The South East Asian countries consolidated their position.

In sectors such as miscellaneous chemicals (HS 38), plastics (HS 39), made up textiles (HS 63) and home appliances (HS 84) which saw a demand rise in the US due to COVID, the import shares of China itself rebounded with a massive rise in export of masks, PPE kits, gloves, diagnostic reagents etc. India benefitted only to a very limited extent (aside from pharma items earlier mentioned) in respect of packaging materials or masks, but even this did not help retain market shares in these sectors. Export prohibitions in India on some of these items for several months could also have been a factor.

Demand contraction in the US was there in several items during the year, including in petroleum products, cut and polished diamonds and automotive products, which are prominent in India's exports. While India's market shares were not unduly affected in the first two, these were dented in the third, partly due to supply constraints.

The GSP concession had greater relevance for some sectors than others. The chapter wise analysis in this report has identified several tariff lines in the GSP-100 list in which imports from India into the US have been significantly reduced or even halved in 2020, eroding India's market share.

Organic chemicals (HS 29) normally topped the list for India in receiving GSP concessions in the US . During 2020, while imports from India into the US of HS 29 as a whole were reduced by 2.2% and the total imports of US of organic chemicals from all sources were down by 7.2%, the imports of the fourteen GSP-100 items in HS 29 into the US from India declined by 24%.

This relatively deeper decline in GSP-100 imports also prevailed in respect of the other five leading HS chapters (apart from HS 85, already commented on earlier) that were earlier GSP eligible - HS 84 (machinery), 87 (transport vehicles), 73 (steel products), 39 (organic chemicals) and 42 (leather products). In four of these chapters, their import levels were also significantly less than the corresponding 2018 figures, when GSP was available. This underlines the competitive edge that GSP gave for those products and signals that some of their US importers may now be turning to other sources. This report contains adequate evidence that the impact from GSP withdrawal is far from negligible.

The net result of all these factors meant that India could not consolidate further in 2020 the steady gains it had made in building market shares in the US till 2019. In fact it lost shares in several sectors. The question arises whether India could have done better in an year when several South East Asian countries significantly improved their market shares in the US market. Even Bangladesh did so in the apparel sector. Turkey too with a warehousing strategy was able to boost its exports of carpets and quickly fill the market share ceded by China.

Certain aspects could have been dealt with better, particularly to make full use of the window of opportunity from trade diversion from China which may not last long¹⁶. Among the many stimulus measures announced last year, none related directly to exports, barring one to protect exports and another to export insurance. Secondly, there was a lot of uncertainty about the continuation of the MEIS scheme following the negative ruling on it by the WTO and the introduction of a new RoDTEP scheme whose details still remain to be announced. Exporters should receive time bound clarity on these matters to be able to negotiate their margins. A new exim policy which was to be announced last year following the expiry of the earlier policy for 2015-2020, that could well

¹⁶ Some signals are already emerging. See for example the recent newsitem <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/16/us/politics/yellen-us-china-trade.html> which appeared on 16 July 2021 in which the US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said that the China trade deal has hurt American consumers.

have also addressed how the exporters could navigate the lockdowns, has already been twice postponed with no reasons given and the earlier policy now stands extended till 30 September 2021¹⁷. At a broader level, there is a dire need for pushing the idea of *Vanijya Bharat* to boost export momentum and accord it strategic priority. Export promotion requires understanding markets, quickly responding to trade opportunities even if temporary and enabling our exports to be competitive. Third, a serious attempt should have been made to insulate at least the important segments of export industries from the lockdown. If there could be a bubble for IPL matches and for Vande Bharat flights, a bubble for '*Vanijya Bharat*' was no less important. Indeed, *Vanijya Bharat* and *Atmanirbhar Bharat* need to progress hand in hand.

As for the findings on GSP withdrawal in this report, it is admitted that a reduction in the import levels into the US could have arisen also due to supply constraints in India and not just because of the impact from GSP withdrawal. It will be necessary for the respective industry associations to do a thorough analysis on the impact of GSP withdrawal, not just for the GSP-100 items covered in this report but including all the earlier GSP eligible tariff lines relevant to each industry, for which this report can be a useful starting point. An aggregated perspective from all sectors will be essential for the bilateral trade negotiations with the US later this year, in which restoration of GSP should be a key item on the agenda.

Going forward, it is heartening to see India's exports to the US recovering in 2021. Imports into the US from India for the first five months of 2021 jumped by 43% over the corresponding figures for 2020¹⁸, with India's import share going up from 2.1 to 2.5%. But considering the transit and shipping time, these figures probably do not fully reflect the impact of the second COVID-19 wave in India, that may appear in the figures for June and July 2021. In any case, it is important that every effort is made to sustain the momentum of the first few months and ensure that further economic shutdowns, even if they become necessary, are carefully calibrated so that disruption to exports remains minimal.

¹⁷ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-extends-current-foreign-trade-policy-till-september/articleshow/81777971.cms>

¹⁸ This is as per USITC trade statistics



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