

## Investment, trade issues put stress on US-India ties

Sachin Parashar | TNN

**New Delhi:** India-US ties are again under stress — this time over trade and investment — according to the government.

With calls in the US for designating India a Priority Foreign Country (PFC), the worst downgrading of status by the US Trade Representative for inability to protect intellectual property rights, the government is accusing US authorities of intimidating the health ministry over the issue of compulsory licences,

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which allow local firms to manufacture patented drugs, and simultaneously preventing other developing countries from acting against evergreening of drug patents.

A PFC tag can allow the US to impose unilateral sanctions against India for domestic laws which deny benefits to the US under any trade agreement. Government sources here said there seemed to be a two-fold US agenda.

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