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Article: India-China trade grows to record \$125 billion despite tensions in eastern Ladakh.

Summary: According to government statistics released on Friday, bilateral trade between India and China reached a new high of over USD 125 billion in 2021, surpassing the USD 100 billion mark in a year when connections hit a new low due to extended standoff by militaries in eastern Ladakh, while India's trade deficit grew to over USD 69 billion. According to the state-run Global Times, overall commerce between China and India in 2021 was USD 125.66 billion, increasing 43.3 percent from 2020. From January to December, China's exports to India increased by 46.2 percent to USD 97.52 billion, while India's exports to China increased by 34.2 percent to USD 28.14 billion. In 2021, India's trade deficit increased to USD 69.38 billion. For more than a decade, India has expressed its alarm over China's rising trade imbalance, urging Beijing to open its markets to Indian IT and pharmaceutical companies. Due to the enormous second wave of COVID-19 and repeated episodes of the disease in India, observers believe much of China's growth in exports to India this year may be ascribed to the purchase of medical supplies and raw materials for India's booming pharma industry. The border stalemate between India's and China's army began on May 5 last year after a violent confrontation in the Pangong lake regions, and both sides have gradually increased their deployment by pouring in tens of thousands of soldiers and heavy equipment.

Facts and Figures :

- Bilateral trade between India and China to hit over USD 125 billion in 2021, crossing the USD 100 billion mark.
- India's trade deficit too mounted to over USD 69 billion.
- The total trade between China and India in 2021 stood at USD 125.66 billion, up 43.3 percent from 2020.
- China's exports to India from January to December rose 46.2 percent to USD 97.52 billion
- Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the mountainous sector.

Opinion: India gradually slipped in manufacturing base and the vote bank politics made no incentive, planning, and development of industry and industry suffered and not competitive. Countries like Bangladesh, Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand are far ahead of India.