

# AEL stock up as Trump pauses corruption law

**Suresh P Iyengar**  
**Janaki Krishnan**  
Mumbai

Amidst a reeling stock market, shares of the Adani Group flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) ended 1.3 per cent higher, with positive sentiment creeping in as US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to pause enforcing the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, under which US authorities have launched bribery investigations against the conglomerate.

The FCPA, which came into effect in 1977, prohibits US and foreign firms from bribing officials of foreign governments to get business or negotiating favourable terms for themselves. Last



**PROBE SUSPENDED.** The law prohibits US companies and foreign firms from bribing officials of foreign governments to get business or negotiating favourable terms for themselves. REUTERS

year, the US Department of Justice served an indictment notice to top Adani executives, alleging that they bribed Indian officials to get solar

contracts, and having concealed it, even as the group issued bonds to US investors to raise funds. The order that Trump signed asked "the At-

torney General to review guidelines and policies governing investigations and enforcement actions under the FCPA" in 180 days.

## ADANI EFFECT

"This decision directly impacts ongoing investigations, including the Adani Group bribery case, and raises broader questions about corporate compliance and cross-border law enforcement," said Akshat Khetan, Founder, AU Corporate Advisory and Legal Services, adding that it marked a significant shift in US regulatory policy.

"While the six-month review offers temporary relief, its long-term implications remain uncertain," he said.

Nilesh Tribhuvann, Managing Partner, White & Brief,

said while it could provide temporary relief by halting new investigations, it would not absolve the Group.

The law has been used by US authorities to levy billions of dollars in penalties from big corporations on charges of bribery.

"The recent pause in the enforcement of the FCPA is set to create some uncertainty. Regulatory oversight easing could lead to a challenging environment, particularly for businesses operating in high-risk jurisdictions," said a senior lawyer.

"While this shift raises concerns about potential leniency in compliance, businesses should continue to withhold compliance, ethical and corporate governance standards," the lawyer said.