

VISIT FOLLOWS STARMER-MODI MEET IN BRAZIL

UK PM hosts Indian business leaders to boost investments

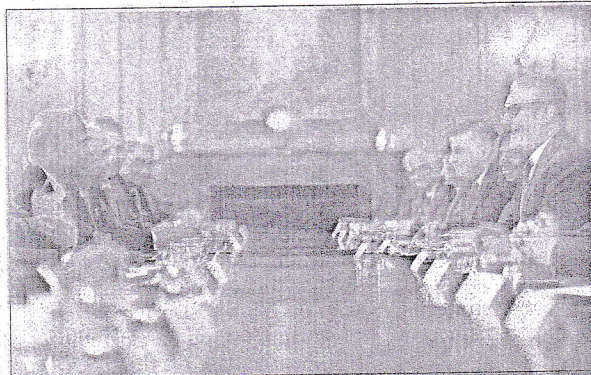
ADITI KHANNA
London, December 19

UK PRIME MINISTER Keir Starmer hosted a delegation of 13 Indian companies at 10 Downing Street in London, with the British government describing it as a “curated visit” to enhance bilateral partnership and boost investments.

The visit on Wednesday follows Starmer’s meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit last month, when they committed to take forward an “ambitious” UK-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with collaboration opportunities on economic growth, security and defence, technology, climate, health, and education.

According to a readout from the British High Commission in New Delhi, the Indian investors and CEOs also met senior Cabinet ministers to discuss job creation and growth opportunities under a proposed India-UK trade deal after Starmer had confirmed the relaunch of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations early in the new year.

“India is a vital partner for the UK and we have huge ambition to unlock more opportunities together, building on our already strong relationship,” said Starmer, with reference to the business meeting. “I’m delighted to welcome some of India’s most senior business



UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer (right) meets a delegation of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in London. Bharti Enterprises chairperson Sunil Bharti Mittal led the delegation.

leaders to Downing Street and to outline the UK’s ambitious focus on economic growth and innovation,” he said.

The delegation, supported by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), discussed deepening ties with chancellor of the exchequer Rachel Reeves and foreign secretary David Lammy. Meanwhile, business and trade secretary Jonathan Reynolds and minister for trade policy Douglas Alexander discussed bilateral trade, worth £42 billion a year and supporting over 600,000 jobs across both economies.

The companies represented are said to have collectively invested over £10 billion into the UK and employ tens of thousands of people across the country. The delegation was led

by Sunil Bharti Mittal, chairperson of Bharti Enterprises, which completed a major investment in the BT Group this year.

“This business delegation comes at a pivotal moment, as India stands as the fastest-growing large economy and is on track to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2027. Over time, India-UK relations have developed into a robust, multifaceted partnership built on historical ties, economic synergy, and increasing geopolitical alignment,” said Mittal, adding, “The India-UK Free Trade Agreement negotiations present significant opportunities for mutual growth and cooperation.”

Other companies represented included Biocon Group, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, and TVS Motor Company. **PTI**