

# FTA push: Goyal holds talks in UK

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Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday held a “productive” meeting with UK’s Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds to push for the long-pending free trade agreement (FTA) during his two-day visit to the country.

“Arrived in London for two days of engaging discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations. In my first engagement, held a productive meeting with the UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds to advance free trade agreement negotiations, reinforcing our commitment to deepening India-UK economic ties,” Goyal

posted on X.

In addition to focusing on reducing tariffs, increasing market access and simplifying trade norms through an FTA, the rush to finalise the trade deal is driven by the United States’ (US) plan to impose coun-

try-specific reciprocal tariffs, which have now been put on hold till July 9.

The meeting comes against the backdrop of global trade being up for a major reset due to

protectionist trade policies being implemented by Washington. Government officials said that the trade deal talks between India and the UK are inching towards conclusion. Earlier this month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was also in London to give further push to the bilateral investment treaty talks.

