

Mutually beneficial: Industry

● Deal described as a transformational step in bilateral ties

FE BUREAU
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INDUSTRY LEADERS FROM both India and the UK gave a resounding welcome to the signing of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), describing it as a forward-looking framework that could redefine economic collaboration between the two countries.

A 16-member delegation of Indian business leaders accompanied Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the UK.

Sunil Bharti Mittal, founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises and co-chair of the India-UK CEO Forum, said the agreement heralds a new chapter for businesses on both sides.

"Indian industry across all sectors welcomes the India-UK FTA with great optimism. This agreement establishes a modern, forward-looking partnership that will stimulate innovation, ease market access, and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Keir Starmer with business leaders from both the countries, following the signing of the historic India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, in London on Thursday

ANI

foster investment.

"Businesses in India as well as the UK stand to gain tremendously, as it lays the groundwork for scaling up bilateral cooperation across key growth sectors," Mittal said.

British companies also echoed the sentiment. Tufan Erginbilgic, CEO of Rolls-Royce, said the deal supports

their long-standing relationship with India, especially in the aerospace sector.

Diageo's interim CEO Nik Jhangiani welcomed the steep reduction in tariffs for alcohol, noting this would significantly improve Scotch whisky exports to India. Jean-Etienne Gourgues of Chivas Brothers described the FTA as a timely

boost for the spirits industry, calling it "a sign of hope" that will help drive long-term investment and job creation in both countries.

On the Indian side, Mahindra Group's CEO and MD Anish Shah said the agreement "marks a transformative moment in the global economic landscape" and

aligns with India's strategic goals in sustainability, clean energy, and digital technology. "This deal is also a testament to the growing stature of India as a trusted partner and innovation powerhouse in the global order," Shah said.

Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal called the pact "a powerful catalyst for indus-

trial growth," while Sudarshan Venu of TVS Motor Company highlighted its alignment with the 'Make in India' vision. "It opens new frontiers for Indian companies to take 'Make in India' to the world. We are particularly excited given the launch of new Norton vehicles in the UK this year," Venu said.