

UK launches India negotiations to kick off 5-star year of trade

- International Trade Secretary visits New Delhi to officially launch negotiations on a new ambitious free trade deal with the world's biggest democracy.
- Agreement will create huge benefits for both countries and could boost our total trade by up to £28 billion a year by 2035 and increase wages by up to £3 billion across the UK.
- Visit demonstrates the UK's tilt to Indo-Pacific and kicks off '5-star year of trade', with plans to launch negotiations with Canada, Mexico and the Gulf and secure accession to the £8.4 trillion CPTPP trade bloc.

The UK and India will today (Thursday 13 January) launch negotiations on an ambitious Free Trade Agreement at an event in New Delhi.

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan will meet with her counterpart, Indian minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, to formally start talks on a deal that could create huge benefits for both countries.

India is one of the world's biggest and fastest-growing economies and a bold new deal would put UK businesses at the front of the queue to supply India's growing middle class, forecast to increase to a quarter of a billion consumers by 2050. India is set to become the world's third biggest economy by 2050, with a bigger population than the US and EU combined.

A deal has the potential to almost double UK exports to India, boost our total trade by as much as £28 billion a year by 2035, and increase wages across the UK by up to £3 billion. Investment from Indian companies already supports 95,000 jobs across the UK.

The UK wants an agreement that slashes barriers to doing business and trading with India's £2 trillion economy and market of 1.4 billion consumers, including cutting tariffs on exports of British-made cars and Scotch whisky.

A deal with India would be a big step forward in the UK's strategy to refocus trade on the Indo-Pacific, home to half of the world's population and 50% of global economic growth. A new economic partnership with India, alongside UK membership of the massive Asia-Pacific trading bloc, CPTPP, will create a pillar in the region supporting free and fair trade.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

A trade deal with India's booming economy offers huge benefits for British businesses, workers and consumers. As we take our historic partnership with India to the next level, the UK's independent trade policy is creating jobs, increasing wages and driving innovation across the country.

The UK has world-class businesses and expertise we can rightly be proud of, from Scotch whisky distillers to financial services and cutting-edge renewable technology. We are seizing the opportunities offered in growing economies of the Indo-Pacific to cement our place on the global stage and deliver jobs and growth at home.

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

A deal with India is a golden opportunity to put UK businesses at the front of the queue as the Indian economy continues to grow rapidly. By 2050 India will be the world's third largest economy with a middle class of almost 250 million shoppers. We want to unlock this huge new market for our great British producers and manufacturers across numerous industries from food and drink to services and automotive.

As an independent, deal-making nation the UK is broadening our economic horizons and forging stronger partnerships with the fastest-growing economies of the world. India marks the start of our ambitious 5-star year of UK trade and will show how the deals we negotiate will boost the economies across all nations and help level up all regions of the UK.

A UK-India FTA would bring multiple benefits including:

- Playing a key role in our ambition to double trade with India by 2030 – supercharging the growth of our trading relationship which totalled over £23bn in 2019.
- Slashing barriers on UK exports – Removing duties alone would increase exports to India by up to £6.8 billion, supporting tens of thousands of jobs across the UK. Important UK exports like Scotch whisky and cars currently face enormous duties of 150% and 125% respectively.
- Levelling up the UK – DIT analysis shows a trade agreement with India could boost the economies of all nations and regions of the UK. Almost 30,000 people in the West Midlands, for example, were employed via Indian investment in 2019, and the region could see a massive boost of up to £300m with opportunities for manufacturers of motor vehicles and parts.
- Investment in UK jobs – International investment from Indian companies already supports 95,000 jobs across the UK and could grow with a new trade deal.
- Boost UK's green industries – The Indian government plans to install 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022 and much more in the coming decades. UK's world-leading renewables industry looks set to benefit from a deal that slashes barriers – such as import tariffs as high as 15% on wind turbine parts from the UK.

Lord Karan Bilimoria, CBI President, said:

The CBI is delighted to see FTA negotiations launch between the UK and India. With India, a rapidly advancing global economic superpower, this trade deal can unlock a new era of partnership and pave the way for significant trade and investment opportunities for UK and Indian businesses. To fully realise the growth possibilities, the UK must focus on the areas which will drive our future economic success, such as collaborative innovation and stronger regulatory alignment. Above all trade is a key instrument for economic growth and prosperity across all regions and nations.

Mike Hawes, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) Chief Executive, said:

The automotive industry supports fair and balanced trade deals with both new and established markets. India is one of the fastest growing global markets with increasing demand for personal mobility and long-term plans to transition to electric vehicles. This presents major opportunities for UK automotive companies which, due to their global competitiveness, diversity and expertise, have already proved attractive for Indian investment. Key to any future trading relationship will be the progressive removal of tariffs, enhanced trade facilitation and reducing other barriers to trade, which can be highly complex and burdensome.

Richard Heald OBE, UK-India Business Council Group Chair, said:

The UKIBC warmly welcomes the launch of these important negotiations. Particularly the breadth and ambition outlined, covering goods and services, particularly the IP-rich, digitally-driven services where the UK and India already excel. It matters – for businesses and consumers – when the world's 5th and 6th largest economies negotiate an FTA. India is an increasingly attractive destination and as the India opportunity grows, an FTA will make it easier for UK businesses to trade and invest there.

The first round of negotiations is expected to start next week – making it the UK's quickest start of formal talks between negotiating teams following a launch.

During her visit to India the International Trade Secretary will also co-chair a meeting of the UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee to review how businesses in both countries are benefiting from existing market access commitments under the UK-India Enhanced Trade Partnership agreed last May by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Indian PM Narendra Modi.

She is also expected to meet with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav to discuss wider bilateral cooperation.

Notes to Editors:

- Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) modelling by the Department for International Trade shows that real wages (wages in today's prices) could increase by up to 0.34% as a result of a UK-India FTA, equivalent to around £3.0 billion annually when compared to 2019 levels, as workers benefit from higher productivity in the economy.

Supporting a long-term solution to the conflict in Yemen

Thank you, Madam President, and can I start by thanking you, Hans and Ramesh, for your briefings and additionally to thank you Hans for your visit to London earlier this week.

We reiterate our full support to your efforts towards a sustainable long-term solution to the conflict with short-term and medium-term priorities along the way. We share your realism about the challenge ahead, and we see great value in your inclusive approach that engages with a broad range of Yemenis. And we wholeheartedly agree with both you and Ramesh and also Ola about the importance and value of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace negotiations and peace building.

But as you've depicted in your briefings today, in the last few weeks, the conflict has escalated, particularly around Marib, Shabwa, Hodeidah and Sana'a. Houthi drone attacks have also increased. And as you know, Ramesh, the consequence is that December saw a significant uptick in civilian casualties. So at a time when de-escalation is critical, the UK would like to extend its welcome to Major-General Michael Beary, who takes on leadership of the UN mission to support the Hodeidah agreement. We look to his vast experience and leadership at this critical time.

As you highlighted, Ramesh, the conflict continues to drive deterioration in the humanitarian situation. The World Food Program has issued a new warning of worsening food insecurity. And Ola's comment about her long journey to physically get to the briefing point today underlined the dangers on the ground. In this context, aid workers must be able to operate without threat of detention, and access must be granted for humanitarian flights to Sana'a airport.

The international community must do all it can to prevent needless suffering and death. The deteriorating humanitarian situation, as Hans said and Ola

underlined, have a disproportionate impact on women. All parties to the conflict and the international community must work towards a long term solution that supports equality between women and men.

In the immediate term there is an urgent need to protect women from gender based violence and to tackle insufficient protections in many camps. Women will never be safe unless there is adequate provision of sex-separated facilities for women, including toilets. And peace will not be sustainable without the full inclusion of women.

Finally, the Houthi seizure earlier this month of an Emirati-flagged vessel brings worrying escalation at a time when ordinary Yemenis desperately need the parties to focus on the path to peace. The UK calls on all parties to resolve the issue quickly and for passage rights and freedom of navigation at sea to be respected.

Thank you.

[Foreign Secretary Statement: NATO-Russia Council](#)

Press release

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss' statement on the NATO-Russia Council today.



Commenting on the NATO-Russia Council today, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

The UK and our Allies made clear to Russia that its military build-up on the border of Ukraine and in illegally annexed Crimea is unacceptable. We condemn Russia's aggression and destabilising activity.

A further military incursion into Ukraine would be a massive

strategic mistake and come with a severe cost on Russia's economy, including coordinated sanctions. The quagmire of a long-running conflict would cost lives and damage communities on both sides. This is the reality of armed conflict, as we have seen before.

Russia is in violation of its commitments through its recent actions on the borders of Ukraine and in illegally annexed Crimea. The UK and our allies are united in our support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and we are pushing back against the Kremlin's threatening behaviour.

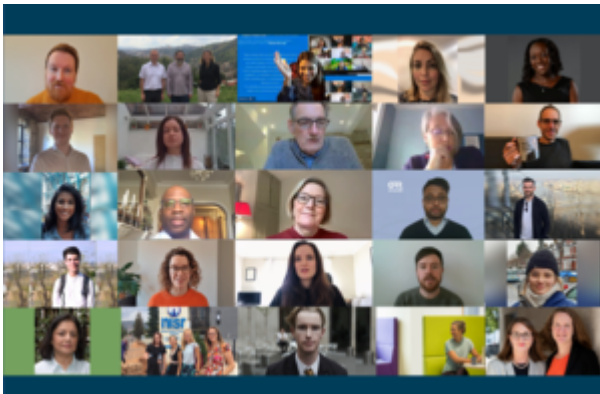
What happens next will be absolutely critical to peace and security in Europe. The only way forward is for Russia to de-escalate and engage in meaningful discussions.

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[Analysis Function Strategy review 2022](#)

News story

Help to shape the future of the Analysis Function.



The Government Analysis Function (AF) strategy is being refreshed and a vital part of this work is understanding the needs of our members across all professions and aspiring analysts.

It's important for our strategy to be clear about what we aim to deliver and how we can help you to be the best you can be; allowing you to access the right learning, the best opportunities to make valuable cross-government connections and get the most out of your AF career.

The Analysis Function Central Team would like to invite you to help shape the future of the Analysis Function by exploring your expectations. What do you

want, need and expect from your Function? Whether you are currently working as an analyst or are interested in joining the AF, we'd like to hear from you.

The team has recently been set up helping to ensure that analysis uses the best data and methods to inform policymaking, improves understanding and results in better outcomes for our citizens. The AF covers the analytical professions in the Civil Service, including statisticians, social researchers, economists, and operational researchers.

During this consultation period, we'd like to gather feedback across the analytical community at one of our dedicated [Analysis Function strategy workshops during January](#). We would really value your input to understand user needs; this could be anything from sharing expert advice or understanding training and development needs.

We look forward to talking to you!

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[Attorney General refers Frankie Smith's sentence to the Court of Appeal](#)

The Attorney General, Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP, has referred the sentence of Frankie Smith to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) scheme.

Frankie Smith was convicted of causing or allowing the death of her 16-month-old daughter, Star Hobson. Star Hobson was murdered by Frankie Smith's partner, Savannah Brockhill, on 22 September 2020.

Speaking about the case, the Attorney General said:

"This is a tragic and extremely upsetting case and my thoughts are with all those who loved Star Hobson. This vulnerable and innocent child was subjected to continued physical abuse, and her mother, Frankie Smith, allowed it to happen.

"This case will have caused upset to anyone who read about it, but my job is to decide if a sentence appears to be too low based solely on the facts of the case.

"I have carefully considered the details of this case, and I concluded that I can refer Frankie Smith's sentence to the Court of Appeal as I believe it is

unduly lenient.

“However, I have concluded that I cannot refer Savannah Brockhill’s sentence. I can only challenge a sentence if it is not just lenient but unduly so, such that the sentencing judge made a gross error or imposed a sentence outside the range of sentences reasonably available in the circumstances of the offence. The threshold is a high one, and the test was not met in this case.

“Savannah Brockhill was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 25 years before being considered for parole. As the Sentencing Judge remarked, 25 years is a minimum and she may serve longer. In my opinion, that sentence is not unduly lenient.”

A date for the hearing at the Court of Appeal will be set in due course.