

Historic India-UK Trade Mission Puts Women Business Leaders Forward

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India has initiated its **first women-led trade mission to the United Kingdom**, marking a new chapter in bilateral commercial engagement after the signing of the **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** between the two countries.

The delegation, composed of women entrepreneurs and business leaders from various sectors, has travelled to the UK this week with the aim of forging new **commercial partnerships**, showcasing Indian products and services, and strengthening export ties in key industries such as agrifood, textiles and apparel.

This initiative follows the landmark India-UK FTA — formally known as the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** — which was signed in July 2025 and promises to expand bilateral economic cooperation by removing trade barriers and opening up wider market access.

The trade mission is expected to include **B2B meetings, networking events, and market visits**, offering Indian women-owned and women-led enterprises the opportunity to engage directly with British buyers and partners. Organisers say the mission aligns with broader objectives of inclusive growth, helping businesses traditionally underrepresented in global trade to access new opportunities.

Experts on gender and trade note that the India-UK FTA includes commitments to **promote economic participation by women entrepreneurs**, a first in such a high-profile trade pact for India. This focus seeks to improve access to finance, trade networks, and global value chains for women-owned businesses.

Participants on the mission are expected to use the platform to explore export opportunities created by tariff reductions and streamlined trade procedures under the FTA, particularly in sectors where Indian goods have a strong competitive edge.

The women-led mission not only highlights the growing role of women in international business, but also underscores India's effort to make trade and economic diplomacy more inclusive as it continues deepening ties with key partners like the UK.