

The Mayor's trip to India and Pakistan was funded from existing budgets within the Greater London Authority.

The purpose of the trip was to promote the 'London Is Open' message, encouraging increased trade and investment links between London and the respective countries/cities, greater connections across cultural and creative industries, and promoting the opportunities in London for tourism, students and business people - a message that was warmly received in all locations. The trip will be evaluated against these aims, with the initial results outlined below.

Over 6 days the Mayor visited Mumbai, New Delhi, Amritsar, Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi attending 37 meetings/events and speaking to approximately 2500 people across the course of the visit.

In India, the Mayor was accompanied by companies participating in his International Business Programme. On the trade mission were 18 of London's high-growth companies who were aiming to identify partnerships and explore business opportunities. The companies undertook several company visits presenting opportunities for them to scale their businesses. They met and networked with Indian counterparts and corporations including Infosys and BDO India, as well as participating in pitching and networking events with local business leaders, VCs and entrepreneurs.

In Pakistan, the Mayor was accompanied by a smaller delegation of senior business leaders from London who were able to meet and talk with senior Pakistani politicians and business people - who otherwise would have been difficult for them to access.

During the visit, the Mayor was happy to announce that London & Partners, the Mayor's investment and promotional agency, had secured more than 400 new jobs in London's tech sector because of investment from Indian firms. ICT company Wipro - which already employs more than 1800 Londoners - revealed plans to open third office in the City of London. Habib Bank AG Zurich, which already has eight branches in Britain, announced that it is now planning two new branches in London, creating 50 new jobs. Cementing London's position as the world-leading centre for VFX (visual effects) and post-production facilities, the Mayor announced the biggest-ever TV co-production between London and India - a remake of The Far Pavilions, worth £113m. The unique collaboration will be produced by both Indian and British technicians, and the post-production for the high-end drama will be based in London.

Initial responses from the businesses that accompanied the Mayor have been very positive and many are now following up with business leads that they were able to cultivate as a result of the visit, which in turn will support employment in London.

Yours sincerely