

PM Modi raises UK's visa policy issue with Theresa May

06/09/2016 20:53 by admin

Hangzhou (China): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday told his British counterpart Theresa May that Britain's new visa policy could have a "negative impact" on Indian working professionals' short term business visits to the UK.

PM Modi with Theresa May at G20 Summit

This was the first meeting between the two leaders since May became Premier.

Meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, the two Prime Ministers also discussed further enhancement of bilateral defence partnership, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Vikas Swarup said.

"Prime Minister also touched on UK's visa policy. In particular, he said that the new UK regulations could have negative impact on Indian working professionals wishing to visit UK for short term business visits," Swarup said.

The Prime Minister invited British firms to 'Make in India' as both leaders also looked forward to an early visit by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar to the UK, he said.

During the meeting, Modi also spoke about challenges of terrorism, which he said is the "biggest threat to the world and knows no boundaries".

He alluded to May's previous stint as Home Secretary and said she was well aware of the dangers of terrorism, Swarup said.

In this context, the two leaders discussed counter terrorism cooperation.

Modi said that the recent meeting of the India-UK joint group on counter terrorism was very useful and called for greater collaboration in cyber security and intelligence sharing besides information gathering.

May said she was very keen to support Modi's vision for India and the broader strategic partnership including the decisions taken during his successful visit to Britain last November.

She also underlined the importance Britain attaches to the Indian diaspora.

This was their first face-to-face meeting between the two leaders after May took over as the Prime Minister following the resignation of David Cameron after Britain's exit from the European Union.

The fact that she had deputed three Ministers to India.

- (With PTI inputs)