



UK INDIA
BUSINESS COUNCIL

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION AND NEW FRONTIERS FOR COLLABORATION



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WELCOME MESSAGE: RICHARD MCCALLUM, GROUP CEO, UKIBC



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We at UKIBC believe technology collaboration is fundamental to the future UK-India partnership.

Whether its in sustainability or defence, quantum to agritech, the bilateral co-creation and co-development of technology is how our two countries can contribute to solving domestic and shared, global challenges.

Our Technology Transformation Conference was born from this belief, with the aim to bring experts together to discuss developments, share examples, enablers and to catalyse and contribute some new ideas.

The UK and India are so well placed to work together, and we're seeing it at both ends of the corridor.

In India, we see an increase in UK firms considering India as a source of tech talent, as a place for R&D, as an increasingly important part of their supply chain.

In the UK, we're seeing Indian firms interested in sourcing UK technology to bring back into their domestic operations.

We certainly hope that is just the beginning of a conversation, and not merely the end as we enable further growth on the UK-India corridor, not just for the benefit of both countries, but towards an even wider, positive global impact.

The expansion of new and existing partnerships will be of tremendous benefit for a sustainable future ahead of us.

"We at UKIBC believe technology collaboration is fundamental to the future UK-India partnership."

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: PROF. AJAY KUMAR SOOD PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISER TO GOI



"International engagement is key to India's tech transformation roadmap."



India's technology transformation journey is fuelled by a combination of factors, including a large pool of talent, entrepreneurial spirit, favourable and futuristic government policies, and increasing digital adoption.

India is evolving into a global technology powerhouse and a hub for innovation. Industries and R&D centres are forming critical nodes in the global supply chain of various technological sectors.

India recognises the importance of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), quantum, blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT).

International engagement is key to India's tech transformation roadmap. The government has articulated national aspirations and priorities through the National AI Strategy, the National Blockchain Strategy, and the National Quantum Mission to encourage research, development, and adoption of these technologies.

The UK and India signed a landmark agreement on science, research, and innovation at the UK-India Science and Innovation Council in London in April 2023. This agreement further strengthens our long-lasting commitment to work together in achieving some of our shared priorities, such as climate resilience, net zero targets, maritime issues, green hydrogen, advancing collaboration among our universities, and building a critical mass of scientific human resources for the future.

Private industry engagement is crucial for the technology transformation of a country as it brings together the expertise, resources, and innovation necessary to drive significant change.

India's tech transformation is a testament to its unwavering spirit of transformation, resilience, and adaptability. It is a journey that showcases the immense possibilities when we harness the potential of technology for the betterment of society.

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JOINT SECRETARY, DPIIT



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India holds boundless opportunities for trade, investment, and growth. The average age of our population is 29, promising a vibrant future. India is moving in the path of inclusive growth and invite global collaboration.”

CHRISTINA SCOTT CMG,
BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER TO INDIA

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The UK and India are powerhouses in technology and innovation, driving global investments and pioneering advancements. With a strong academic base and thriving tech ecosystems, both countries rank high in global innovation indices and the natural synergies between us are second to none. From tech start ups working together to AI collaboration, we are better together.





TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION A LAUNCHPAD FOR INDIA TAKE OFF

P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer, Vodafone



Technology is indeed transformative. And this fact was brought to the fore during the pandemic – which accelerated the digital revolution by changing consumer behaviour and ways of working such as:

- Online schools and WFH
- Face-to-face meetings replaced by video calls
- Remote healthcare took the pressure off limited medical infrastructure
- Online shopping brought choice and utility
- Entertainment available at home

This change was supported by technology – more specifically telecom networks that catered to the sharp increase in traffic as a result of changed usage and traffic patterns. In fact, we, at Vodafone Idea, registered nearly 1 year of traffic growth within the 1st week of lockdown.

"India has enjoyed decades of progress and the tech transformation is giving us an excellent launch pad for a swift take-off. Telecom infrastructure will be a critical facilitator and human capital an essential enabler".

Visionary government policies unveiled at regular intervals have helped to keep the momentum going. Starting with the 9 pillars of Digital India vision that was articulated in 2014, the Government has announced several schemes and frameworks designed to ensure that robust digital connectivity is the foundation for the Indian economy transformation.



Catalysed by the transformative Government policies Vodafone Idea too, has made a definitive shift transforming from a 'Telco' to a 'Techco' helping businesses stay in 'Work On' mode and keep the wheels of the economy running. Vi has a suite of Mobility, IoT, Cloud, Security and Connectivity solutions for large enterprises, public sector, MSMEs, Start-ups and SOHOs to keep all sectors of the economy operational and productive.

Simultaneously our transformative CSR projects in the domains of education, financial literacy, preventive healthcare, women empowerment, and agriculture, are bringing about positive social impact through technology based solutions.



Vodafone's flagship programme in education – Jigyasa - addresses some of the most pressing concerns faced by education sector in India by building the capacity of teachers, introducing digital content in the classroom to make learning and teaching more enjoyable and engaging.

At present, the programme is being run across 2,200 schools with 12,000 teachers in 5 states using and developing digital learning content. As per the impact assessment report, 94% of teachers use ICT for delivering lessons after Jigyasa and 98.6% of teachers reported improvement in students' behaviour towards learning.

Vi Foundations's *SmartAgri solution* started as a pilot and has rapidly scaled up to reach over 5 lakh farmers across 10 Indian states - majority being small-scale farmers with 1.5 to 2 acres of land. With the help of technology, it has helped improve their livelihood by enhancing their income by up to 25% and reducing input cost to the same level.

As we aim to build a trillion-dollar digital economy, telecom as a sector will continue to play a crucial role in fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth.

Being a leading telco, we will continue to collaborate with the Government and other industry stakeholders to help India achieve its economic goals and support the digital aspirations of our customers for a brighter future.







TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS FOR NEXT HALF BILLION: KEY TAKEAWAYS

Speakers:

- *P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer, Vodafone*
- *Rucha Nanavati, Chief Information Officer, Mahindra Group*
- *Aishwarya Raman, Executive Director, OMI Foundation*
- *Moderated by Yashodhara Dasgupta, Advocacy Director, UKIBC*

Technology has become core to the way businesses operate, playing a fundamental role for both businesses and their customers to make smarter and more well-informed decisions.

Technology optimises processes, increases efficiency, and enables unprecedented scale. Tech Mahindra is utilising technology to optimise processes - for its enhanced customer experience when selling its cars online or in its real estate business for instance. These efficiency gains translate into higher output and improved competitiveness for businesses, driving overall economic productivity.

For Vodafone in the telecom sector, technology is at the heart of its objectives to connect people and is helping the company to roll out its services across India at scale. These connections are helping farmers to yield better crop productivity and helping the youth to access education and training as just two of many examples of the pervasive and comprehensive nature of technology and its benefits.

Tech is an enabler and tool to overcome societal inequalities by spurring digital transformation across sectors. By breaking down physical barriers, technology enables individuals to access information, communicate, and participate in various aspects of life.

As technology continues to evolve, its potential to support inclusion grows, reinforcing the importance of designing and implementing solutions that prioritise accessibility and diversity.

OMI Foundation has seen the potential of the electric mobility sector to not just solve mobility and climate change related challenges but also create jobs - specifically 10 million direct jobs in the electric mobility ecosystem by 2030, and many more indirectly.

As India and the UK continue to develop and embrace technology throughout the economy and society, the transformative power of tech is set to drive inclusive economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards.



LEVERAGING PUBLIC PRIVATE COLLABORATIONS ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION: **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

Speakers:

- *Ajit Sharma, MD - India and South Asia, Royal Society of Chemistry*
- *Atul Kulkarni, Chief Technology Officer, Tata Elxsi*
- *In conversation with Dr. Suranjali Tandon, Associate Professor, NIPFP*

Public private partnerships are an important facet for building a mature technology ecosystem, especially with industry academia collaborations. Government agencies bring regulatory expertise, public funding, and long-term vision, while private companies contribute specialised knowledge, entrepreneurial agility, and investment capabilities.

In collaboration with the Indian Government's Department of Science and Technology, Royal Society of Chemistry's iRise programme is dedicated to promoting STEM for social good. It brings together industry and academic leaders to foster a thriving ecosystem for STEM education, research, and innovation in India through various strands – teacher training, early career researchers, particularly PhD students, a thought leadership forum, and CXO Forum.

The collaborative approach ensures their alignment with public needs and societal challenges.

Tata Elxsi partnered with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on the monumental Gaganyaan Mission to successfully deliver Crew Module Recovery Models. It's the first time ISRO has outsourced the mechanical design and development work for a critical system to an external partner.

Such partnerships promote economic growth and enhanced public services, while addressing pressing global issues, such as climate change, healthcare, and digital inclusion, and contribute to help to push new boundaries for technology - like AI and space exploration!

Wider collaborations between UK and India will foster the development of sustainable tech environments and of businesses, economies, and nations.



INSIGHTS LEARNED FOR A CLOSER UK-INDIA TECH PARTNERSHIP

Technology to achieve scale

Digital transformations that support population-scale interventions as seen with several digital public infrastructure initiatives (like UPI) need a new operating model. These models can vary between product and platform models, enterprise-wide agility models, etc. Collaboration is key to such models, whether it is the role of small and medium sized enterprises or large companies.

International engagement can spur India's Technology Roadmap

The strength of the UK-India S&T collaboration, as seen with the recently concluded agreement on science, research and innovation or in forums such as the UK-India Strategic Tech Dialogue, reinforce a shared commitment between both countries. This cuts across a range of areas such as climate action, net zero transition pathways and advancing capacities on scientific R&D. More such institutional mechanisms will be welcome going forward and build to the resilience of India's technology transformation journey.

Private sector has a crucial role to play in driving innovation - and needs Government backing

Private industry engagement brings together the expertise, resources, and innovation necessary to drive technological transformation. Startups have an important role alongside major players, but need critical support, both financial and by way of learnings, to flourish. Governments have a key role in facilitating technology transformations, for example, in the development of technology hubs and innovation centres.



Nurturing a strong tech talent pool is vital

Being digital means having the right talent fit or an adequate bench of tech talent for 21st century needs. Capacity building and creating an enabling environment for knowledge workers to thrive is critical in the form of employee value propositions or training programmes, for example.

Countries have unique challenges and this makes international collaboration more beneficial

Innovation is often borne out of necessity. It's why many believe that technology is key to overcoming climate change. The variety of challenges that countries face, from climate stresses to infrastructure needs, means that different solutions arise and technology is implemented in distinct ways. Over time, these solutions and learnings can later be translated into other uses, solving new challenges. Countries can speed this process up by sharing technology and experiences.



UK INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL

The UK India Business Council is a strategic advisory and policy advocacy organisation with a mission to support businesses with insights, networks, policy advocacy, services, and facilities needed to succeed in the UK and India. We believe passionately that the UK-India partnership creates jobs and growth in both countries, and that UK and Indian businesses have ideas, technology, services and products that can succeed in India and the UK, respectively.

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