UK INDIA
BUSINESS COUNCIL

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR A UK-INDIA DATA GARAGE

GROUNDED IN EXTENSIVE INTERACTIONS WITH GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS ACROSS THE UK-INDIA CORRIDOR, THE UKIBC HAS PREPARED THIS BRIEFING NOTE TO FACILITATE CONSULTATION ON THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S DRAFT PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL 2018 AND THE PROMISING FUTURE OF THE UK-INDIA TECH PARTNERSHIP.

MAY 2019

A UK-INDIA DATA GARAGE - AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Data Garage is a ''virtual innovation'' facility that enables participants seeking to deliver digital innovation to share and process data between the UK and India in a discreet environment according a common governance framework of shared sandbox protocols.

Businesses in both the UK and in India want to do data-based scientific research and commercial technical innovation with each other. This is key to the success of the India-UK Tech Partnership announced by Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister May in April 2018. The opportunities from combining the UK's AI expertise and capital with India's immense data cache, tech know-how, and ambition are unrivalled. Yet businesses crucial to driving this currently operate under a cloud of "FUD: fear, uncertainty and distrust". The current lack of mutually accepted roadmaps on governance, IP, proper data protection, GDPR equivalence, and navigating market risks act as real access barriers.

With the right approach, a UK-India joint Data Garage, appropriately located, can give businesses of both countries the confidence to access localised data and to collaborate and deliver advanced data analytics projects and programmes. A shared set of predetermined procedures and protocols agreed between participants within the Data Garage ensures commercial confidence and incentivisation, whilst maintaining the high quality localised data protection compliant with GDPR, Indian Personal Data Protection legislation, and other related measures, thereby reducing regulatory arbitrage.

This gives foundation for Indians to use UK expertise to enhance the value of their data and fast-track delivery of an ambitious and outward-looking national AI strategy without compromising data localisation rules. For the UK, this is a mutual business opportunity which also delivers on the Government's Industrial Strategy where AI and Data form one of the four 'Grand Challenges'.

The benefits are not simply commercial, but enable participants on both sides to lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution globally within and between sectors. In short, the Data Garage can be a powerful virtual platform for combining our immense complementarities and realising the potential of the UK-India Tech Partnership.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF A UK-INDIA DATA GARAGE

1 A shared governance and user framework in which advanced data analytic projects between the UK and India can proceed with confidence.

2 Shared protocols predetermined by participants that are innovation friendly, address IP risks, and ensure regulatory compliance and GDPR equivalence as well as supporting participants through other market access barriers.

3 Participant stakeholders include: business, universities and higher education institutions, Government, NGO's, and start-ups across the UK and India which sign up to the governance and operational protocols.

4 Enables the safe, secure, and efficient processing, and application of data between the UK and India for projects according to the facilities protocols.

5 Bridge the data skill gaps that exist between academia and business in both the UK and India whether in-work, training, academia, or school.

6 Improve public and commercial trust in the safety and quality of data protection adhered to by those participating in the Garage according to transparent protocols.

7 Connect needs and abilities across Government to address shared socio-economic challenges.

LOOKING BEYOND WHAT CURRENTLY EXISTS

Existing Data Garage models give a glimpse into what a UK-India Garage could deliver. Sitting alongside established localised data storage architecture, Data Garages are virtual workshops operating either as sector research facilities, for internal innovation development, or as skill hubs. In India, the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre set up by the Government of Karnataka nurtures startups across agriculture, the environment, biotech, and healthcare, whilst the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) is a Union Government backed global innovation hub disrupting deep science research.

In the UK, the Digital Catapult is the leading digital innovation centre driving the early adoption of digital tech in UK businesses to improve competitiveness. In London, Aviva's Data Garage specifically taps into how new technology can drive the insurance industry, acting a source of sector innovation. Internationally Google and Microsoft also operate their own Garages. Where Google's focus is on the development and dissemination of digital skills, Microsoft's acts as an internal platform for staff to pursue personal innovation projects.

Together they play important roles reimagining corporate R&D investment in data and AI, disseminating data skills, and applying the latest in AI innovation to wider socio-economic challenges - all outcomes where the UK-India Tech Partnership is particularly compelling.

However, for a UK-India Data Garage to deliver these ambitions, it requires the foundations of an agreed shared framework facilitating stakeholder trust, compliance, and innovation that smooth market access barriers. This makes a UK-India Data Garage not just a powerful platform for compelling collaboration, but a pioneering institution in the sector globally.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF A SUCCESSFUL DATA GARAGE

A successful Data Garage match needs and abilities across a common framework of sandbox protocols, this includes:

SUPPORTING THE UK AND INDIA'S DIGITAL STRATEGIES

India's National AI Strategy establishes a network of Centres for Excellence connected by a new National Centre for AI and National AI Portal. The UK likewise labels AI and Data as one of the four 'Grand Challenges' in the national Industrial Strategy with an AI Sector Deal focussing on rapidly growing the UK's AI capabilities, expertise, investment in home-grown skills, and business whilst attracting global talent. This is complimented by significant investments in the UK's digital infrastructure including the creation of five Medical Technology Centres. A UK-India Data Garage therefore needs to be rooted in our complimentary export-orientated AI strategies focused on rapidly upscaling our capabilities and infrastructure.

INNOVATION FRIENDLY DATA PROTECTION

A Data Garage functions best if participants are able to freely and securely access big data either in the UK and India on a mutual basis. The access to data and the transfer of data sets is the lifeblood of innovation and the backbone of any Data Garage. India's proposed Personal Data Protection Bill is a positive step towards enabling this and looks broadly consistent with developing global norms. However, narrowly-defined, intuitive, and sector-agnostic data localisation provisions supported by an independent, tech-savvy Data Protection Authority are essential pre-conditions for a reciprocal and meaningful collaboration that fulfils both UK and Indian digital ambitions.

MOBILISING THE UK-INDIA TECH PARTNERSHIP

Our Tech Partnership could unlock an unrivalled opportunity for economic transformation. This can only succeed sustainably if the G2G initiative becomes a catalyst for business-driven innovation. Multiple market access barriers however restrict the ability of business to deliver on the Partnership's potential. In fulfilling the long-term ambitions of the Partnership, including delivering effective initiatives at a Cluster-to-Cluster level, the Data Garage poses a joint market access solution that could enable a flourishing Partnership driven by the data practitioners themselves.

A TRUSTED AND RECOGNISABLE BRAND

A Data Garage should engender trust in the ownership, deposit, and processing of data for all involved. This can only be established through transparent protocols and a shared approach to data security. With the right approach, the Data Garage mark can be a recognisable symbol of trust in the use of data.

A LAUNCHPAD FOR STARTUPS

Supporting startups is synonymous with tech innovation, research and development, and an important part of both UK and India's AI strategies. An active role for startup collaboration facilitated by the Garage ensures new ideas have access to world-class expertise, significant business partnership, data, lab testing facilities, and venture-capital that give them the international edge.

GEARED TOWARDS COMMON CHALLENGES

We work best when we realise our common endeavour. A Garage explicitly orientated towards addressing specific shared challenges can make a big impact. From harnessing AI to revolutionise socio-economic needs such as healthcare provision, to enhancing gender diversity in the tech industry itself, these challenges should make the most of our compelling complementarities to form the mission statement of the Garage directing investment.

SHARED GOVERNANCE

A Governance Board comprised of UK and India stakeholders across business, academia, startups, Government, and regulators ensures that the Board is both receptive to the latest digital developments, and governed in the interests of all participants. This Board would be responsible for negotiating and reviewing shared protocols.

FUNDING DRIVEN BY INNOVATION SUCCESS

Though initial funding from leading Government and business stakeholders is necessary in the short-term, in the long-term the Garage could derive funding from the commercial innovation success it facilitates in a way that respects IP and is agreed by all participants. This gives the Garage explicit incentive to actively support innovation output in the interests of both UK and Indian participants.

REMOTE ACCESS

Though a Garage's physical data servers can be housed in a facility in India or in the UK, labs, expertise and data practitioners could be based virtually across the UK, India, and indeed the world. Whilst original sensitive personal information should remain stored in the country of origin, access to de-identified big data and metadata through a secure portal will ensure collaboration is accessible and effective. To ensure security and standards remain consistent and high, remote access can be offered by participating higher education institutions and businesses with the appropriate security infrastructure according to a predetermined code-of-conduct that meets both the UK and India's data protection and transfer requirements.

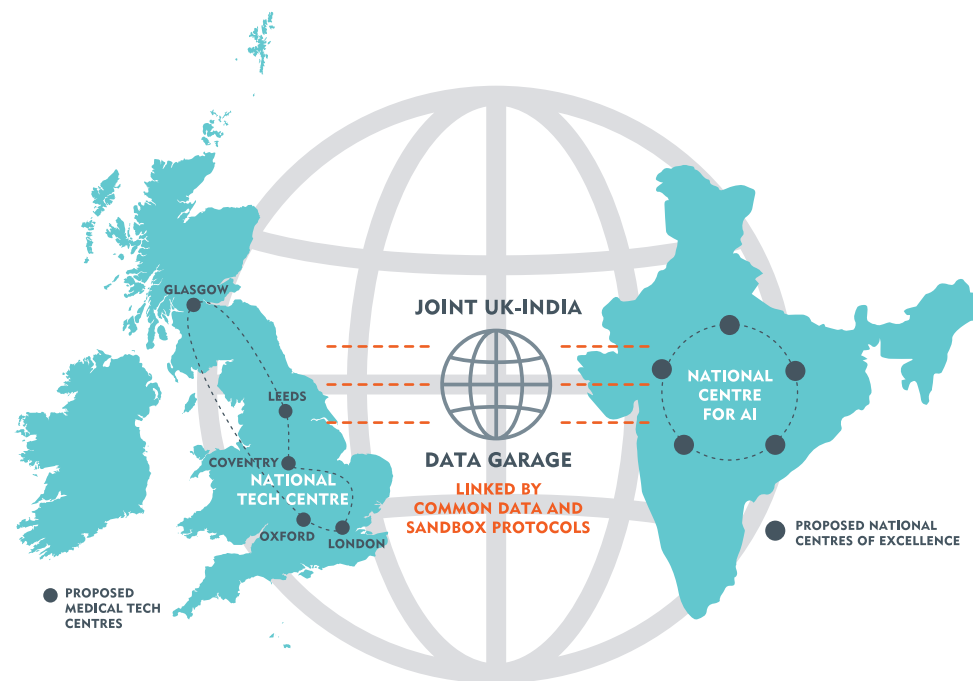## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY A COMMON FRAMEWORK OF SHARED SANDBOX PROTOCOLS?

A joint UK-India Data Garage is distinguished globally by a common framework of protocols that enable both UK and Indian stakeholders to enter contracts, projects, and collaborations from a predetermined position of trust.

Businesses face very real barriers to maximising the UK-India Tech Partnership. Differences in data protection legislation create regulatory arbitrage regardless of the comparative advantages of each policy approach. Businesses on both sides need the confidence that corporate partners will handle both personal and business data to a high standard of security required in a competitive market and in legislation. Likewise, terms for collaboration need to incentivise investment and reward. Navigating on a bilateral B2B basis data localisation, data protection, GDPR arbitrage, proper IP agreement and enforcement, and trust is risky and costly for any international partner on a case-to-case basis no matter how large the potential rewards of the UK-India Tech Partnership.

A UK-India Data Garage therefore offers the opportunity to create a common framework that establishes shared high-quality protocols stakeholders must adopt in order to participate. These should be 'sandbox' protocols that adopt appropriate IP which incentivises testbed practices key to innovative data analysis and application. A proper IP framework reduces commercial and financial risks to patient investment.

Though it is accepted that access to, and storage of, sensitive personal information must remain within the country of origin, the transfer of de-identified big data and metadata is necessary to the functioning of a Data Garage. To deliver this, Data Garage protocols must meet 'adequacy' and 'appropriateness' requirements of both the UK's GDPR framework and India's Personal Data Protection Bill. A common framework supporting respective data processing and transfer provisions where appropriate also facilitates the creation of an effective dispute resolution mechanism backed by the UK's Information Commissioner's Office and India's Data protection Authority.

Under these common Data Garage protocols, citizens will be able to have trust that their data is being handled securely by participants which have a clear, agreed and trusted market and regulatory pathway to delivering innovation. In the long-term, these protocols lay the groundwork for a UK-India Common Data Agreement akin to the UK-USA Privacy Shield Framework. A wider, formal bilateral agreement could unlock the full potential of our immense complementarities maximising the value our citizens derive from their own data through collaboration.

JOINT UK-INDIA

DATA GARAGE

LINKED BY
COMMON DATA AND
SANDBOX PROTOCOLS

GLASGOW

LEEDS

COVENTRY
NATIONAL
TECH CENTRE

OXFORD
LONDON

● PROPOSED
MEDICAL TECH
CENTRES

NATIONAL
CENTRE
FOR AI

● PROPOSED NATIONAL
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

HOW A UK-INDIA DATA GARAGE CAN DELIVER

The payoffs of a Data Garage are manifold: an IP framework that derisks joint ventures and incentivises innovation; a demystified approach to regulatory arbitrage; trusted enforcement of protocols; and access to world-leading AI expertise, ambition, and an immense data cache through a secure testbed facility.

With the right approach, a UK-India joint Data Garage can be a hallmark of trust in the industry, incentivising the patient capital investment necessary for maximising the value of the UK-India Tech Partnership, and facilitate a permanent dialogue between Government and business that ensures regulation keeps pace with innovation. Under this framework, the UK and India's developing digital infrastructure can benefit from each other to become immediately world-leading rather than 'catching up'. Furthermore, it outlines an efficient model for the international collaboration in data core to establishing India as the data-solutions hub of the developing world and meeting the UK's outward-looking Industrial Strategy.

This Briefing Note outlines the high-level concept of a potential UK-India Data Garage. To deliver this ambitious multi-stakeholder project, both Government and business commitment is necessary to carry out research into the data garage models and shared sandbox protocols that can optimise our long-term outcomes.

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WHO ARE THE UK INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL?

The UKIBC believe passionately that UK-India business partnership creates jobs and growth in both countries. Though our insights, networks, and advocacy, we support businesses to succeed.

This briefing note is the second in a series based on the in depth report on India's data protection and the future of the UK-India Tech Partnership published by UKIBC in March 2019. For information about our digital advocacy and wider work visit www.ukibc.com or get in touch with our Digital Sector Manager, Meghna Misra-Elder at meghna.misra-elder@ukibc.com

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DATA: THE FOUNDATION OF INTELLIGENT ECONOMIES

INDIA'S DATA PROTECTION AND THE FUTURE OF THE UK-INDIA TECH PARTNERSHIP

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