

UK INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL: ADVOCATING BUSINESS SUCCESS IN 2021

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FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to present to you our latest annual Advocacy Report covering the work of the UK India Business Council (UKIBC) as we endeavor to advance the UK-India bilateral trade and investment relationship.

The UKIBC strengthens the UK-India trade and investment ties through policy advocacy, strategic advisory and membership services, and supporting governmental deliberations. We are the leading organisation focused on promoting bilateral economic relations between the UK and India. Structured as a not-for-profit organisation, we are an independent, business-led and Government backed knowledge partner with unique networks in the Indian and UK public and private sectors.

As a business-led organisation, it is imperative that businesses' needs lead our work. We are membership-led, which means we ask our members – UK and Indian businesses – what their advocacy needs are and advocate for them at all levels of Government to facilitate trade, investment and economic growth between the UK and India. We work with stakeholders across the UK and Indian Governments, including State Governments in India as well as central, devolved administrations, and city regions in the UK.

Through submissions, reports, and whitepapers we provide evidence to Government bodies, as well as connecting our members directly to relevant stakeholders from government to industry. This allows our members to improve their understanding of the Indian market and put across their own views on the issues they are facing and plans for the future. This creates a link between governments and business, enabling both to act most effectively to remove barriers to trade and investment, and to keep up to date with ongoing developments.

To ensure that this positive relationship continues to grow, the reform priorities of UK companies must be heard. Government to Government (G2G) platforms need the direct input of businesses on both sides if they are to efficiently target and tackle the barriers that matter. Success is rooted in continuous G2G and G2B interaction in order to help set right the priorities and resolve barriers to trade. Thanks to our connections with both the Government of India and the UK, the UKIBC ensures that the needs of business is incorporated into the advancement of the UK-India bilateral relationship.

If you are interested in UKIBC working for you, you may visit our website www.ukibc.com to find out more about the range of services provided, as well as access to reports and white papers and much more.



Jayant Krishna
Group Chief Executive Officer
UK India Business Council

INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the breadth of advocacy work that the UKIBC has delivered in the last twelve months and sets out our objectives and plans for 2021.

The UK and India are important economic partners, and the mutually beneficial relationship is only growing stronger. India is projected to become the world's third largest economy by 2030. This provides enormous opportunities to UK business, aided by India's growing consumption, investment, and production and service markets.

India is a complex market with significant challenges, but progress is being made. In the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings, India has climbed from 130th in 2016 to 63rd in the most recent rankings of 2019. This increase comes on the back of reforms that have made paying tax, accessing credit and trading across borders quicker and easier. At the same time, new measures related to India's self-reliant mission are perhaps making it harder to export and invest in India. Nonetheless, UKIBC's own insight, from our networks, contacts, meetings, surveys and events have found that most UK companies already doing business in India plan on deepening their engagement and business activity.

Many UK businesses of all sizes are already succeeding in India. The UK is currently the sixth largest investor in India, with cumulative inflow of USD 29.5 billion since 2001¹. FDI from the UK is responsible for more than 400,000 direct jobs in India and over 800,000 indirectly. This is a reciprocal relationship with over 840 Indian businesses operating in the UK, employing over 100,000 people.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently set-out to reform the Indian business environment, recognising that doing so is essential not only for internal growth but also to attract foreign investment, an important facet if India is to reach the Government's goal of a USD 5 trillion economy in the near future. Reforms have centred on boosting the private sector as well as attracting foreign investment. Streamlining regulations, including the Goods and Services Tax (GST), improvements to infrastructure, and utilising technology have all been further benefits to business.

Meanwhile, the UK has left the European Union, after the 11-month long transition period ended on the 31st December 2020 and the new EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement is in place. Under the conviction of the UK Government's 'Global Britain' agenda and a new trading relationship with the world, the UK has ambitions of its own.

2020 was a challenging year for most as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Governments and businesses across the world have sought to adjust to "the new normal" and in many cases it has caused decision makers and strategists to reevaluate goals and directions their country or business is taking.

Against this backdrop, the UKIBC, in consultation with its members and clients identified a range of regulatory and practical issues being faced by business, which were presented to the Government of India and major State Governments through several submissions and dialogues. 70 percent of the issues highlighted and other pain areas in our submissions were quickly resolved, enabling businesses to continue to provide their goods and services, while helping to save lives. [Read more](#)

So, in spite of the challenges presented by COVID-19, the UK-India bilateral relationship has continued to progress, as this report outlines. In 2021, we will continue to work with our members and clients to drive the UK-India relationship forward.

¹ Grant Thornton (2021) Britain Meets India

INFLUENCE

The UKIBC is uniquely connected to all levels of the UK and Indian Governments, at the National level, and at State level in India, and Devolved Administration and City Region levels in the UK. These connections enable us to advocate for positive change on behalf of our members and clients, as well as connecting them directly to influencers and decision makers.

UK GOVERNMENT

Central Government

From Secretaries of State to MPs and senior civil servants, the UKIBC is well connected across the UK Government, including the Department for International Trade (DIT), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Home Office (HO) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS). We also share a strong relationship with the British High Commission in India.

Across the UK Government, we advocate for business in our regular meetings, interactions and submissions. On a quarterly basis, UKIBC holds a meeting with the Prime Minister's Office to update No.10 on developments in India and on the work of the UKIBC.

We will continue to work with the UK Government on the UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO), CEO Forum, Joint Trade Review and on improving the ease of doing business – all of which will help UK companies to increase their trade and investment into India.

UK City Regions

The UKIBC works closely with the UK City Regions that are active in building economic links with India. We are strategic advisers and delivery partners for the Sheffield City Region, represented on the Advisory Board of the West Midlands India Partnership, and participate in the Board of the Manchester India Partnership.



Clockwise
(from top left):

UKIBC CEO Richard Heald, OBE attending No.10 in London with Advisory Council member, TV Mohandas Pai.

UKIBC's MD Kevin McCole with the DIT team in Delhi for a roundtable with Nidhi Tripathi, Joint Secretary MoCI.

UKIBC CEO Jayant Krishna and Vice Chair Richard McCallum, with UK High Commissioner to India, Alex Ellis.

Sheffield City Region delegation to Maharashtra.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT

Central Government

We at the UKIBC are delighted to work with the Government of India in many capacities, whether it is through the UK-India CEO Forum, the UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee, the Ease of Doing Business programme, or the Access India Programme, which supports the Make in India initiative and the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission.

Many of our discussions with the Indian Government focus on improving the ease of doing business at both central and state levels. The Government's focus and constructive actions are building confidence amongst investors.

To support ease of doing business and scrutinise areas that the UK can offer support to India's economic development, we have facilitated regular meetings with Ministers and Officials from the Indian Prime Minister's Office, as well as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Finance, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Human Resources (MHRD), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), Invest India, NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology (MeitY), Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), the High Commission of India and other government entities.

State Governments

In 2020, the UK India Business Council enhanced our links with Indian State Governments, by extending our MoUs with the Governments of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. These engagements facilitate better engagement between UK businesses and State Governments. The result is a better mutual understanding of priorities and policies; the ability to address general and specific ease of doing business issues; and, for the State Governments, build a strong understanding of investors' needs, thus enabling each State to better promote itself as an investor destination.



Clockwise (from top left):

UKIBC Chair Richard Heald with Dr Mahopatra, DPIIT Secretary, upon launching our annual Doing Business in India Report.

UKIBC's Kevin McCole, MD, and Richard Heald, Group Chair, with then-High Commissioner of India, Deputy Commissioner and then-Minister of Economic at the launch of the Access India Programme Phase II at the Indian High Commission in London.

UKIBC CEO Jayant Krishna at the signing of UKIBC's MoU with Guidance Tamil Nadu

UKIBC Managing Director, Kevin McCole, meeting with MIDC on the launch of UKIBC's Doing Business in India Report.

BUSINESS TO GOVERNMENT

As is evident in all our interactions, the mission to improve the ease of doing business is better achieved with the direct input of businesses, from both countries. Feedback from businesses helps Government to align policy and ultimately support business to boost trade and investment, thereby creating jobs, fostering growth, and promoting prosperity between and within our two countries.

Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)

The Joint Economic and Trade Committee, or JETCO, sees the UK and Indian Governments come together with business leaders from both countries to address market access issues, develop bilateral trade and make it easier to do business. The UKIBC plays a key role in feeding the views of the UK businesses into this process with a view to achieving favourable outcomes for UK companies.

In July of 2020, the 14th UK-India JETCO took place, for the first time virtually. There, the UK Secretary of State for International Trade, Liz Truss, and Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, announced that the Governments will establish an Enhanced Trade Partnership, which is the first step on a roadmap to a UK-India free trade agreement.

As part of their bilateral discussions, the UKIBC moderated a meeting for Ms Truss and Mr Goyal, joined by UK Minister for International Trade, Mr Ranil Jayawardena, and Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Mr Hardeep Singh Puri, to meet business leaders representing bilateral working groups in three priority sectors: food and drink; life science and healthcare; and digital and data services.

The UKIBC led the working groups across the three priority sectors, consolidating their feedback into three detailed reports that outline the opportunities for the UK and India to work together and to boost trade and investment, and constructive recommendations to better support business to these ends. The co-Chairs of each working group presented these recommended market access reforms to the Ministers.

We also held numerous roundtables to enable investors in the UK and India to present their business plans, including challenges and opportunities, directly to Ministers and senior civil servants, including UK Minister for Investment, Lord Grimstone and Minister for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena.

It is vital that Governments hear first-hand from businesses about the opportunities and challenges they face, and, critically, the solutions that would work for them. We will continue to facilitate these important interactions between business and government at the UK-India CEO Forum, JETCO, and in our roundtables throughout the year.



Secretary of State for International Trade, Liz Truss, and Minister for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena, at the virtual JETCO meeting in 2020.

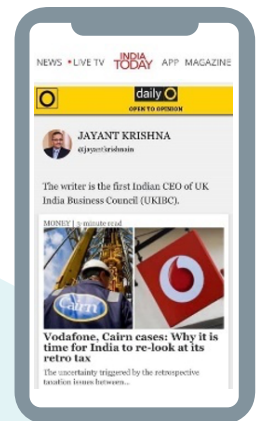
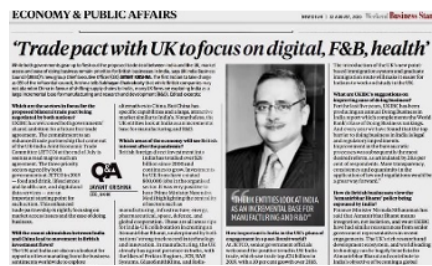


Leading UK companies sat with Mr Goyal and Dr Fox, former UK International Trade Secretary, for a roundtable on Ease of Doing Business at the last in-person JETCO.

INTELLIGENCE

In 2020, we continued to share our thought leadership and advocacy agenda through blogs, op-eds, numerous top-level publications and TV interviews. These varied from insight on the UK's new points-based immigration system, the impact of Brexit, the Indian budget, changes to the UK cabinet, as well as the latest industry news and government policy announcements.

IN THE MEDIA



BusinessLine Time to step up UK-India trade partnership

By co-creating and co-innovating, this 'valuable combination' has boundless opportunities for mutual growth

In the current climate of global uncertainty, the UK-India trade partnership is more relevant than ever. The UK-India Business Council (UKIBC) is a unique platform that brings together UK and Indian business leaders to explore opportunities for mutual growth. The council has been instrumental in fostering trade and investment between the two countries, and its efforts are more important than ever in the current climate of global uncertainty.

The UK-India trade partnership has a long history, and the UKIBC has been a key player in this partnership. The council has been instrumental in fostering trade and investment between the two countries, and its efforts are more important than ever in the current climate of global uncertainty.

Fast-tracking India for atmanirbharta

From advanced engineering and technology to life sciences and healthcare, there are vast areas where India can become a global leader

JAYANT KRISHNA

India has a vast potential to become a global leader in various sectors, including advanced engineering and technology, life sciences, and healthcare. The UK-India Business Council (UKIBC) is a unique platform that brings together UK and Indian business leaders to explore opportunities for mutual growth. The council has been instrumental in fostering trade and investment between the two countries, and its efforts are more important than ever in the current climate of global uncertainty.

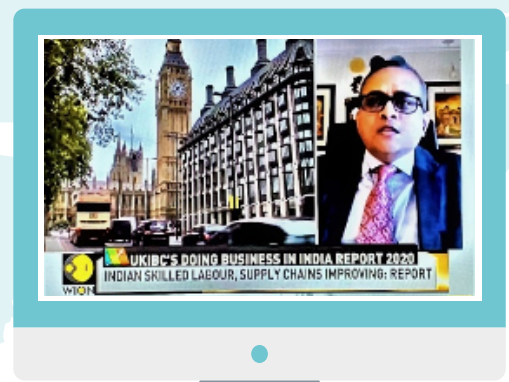


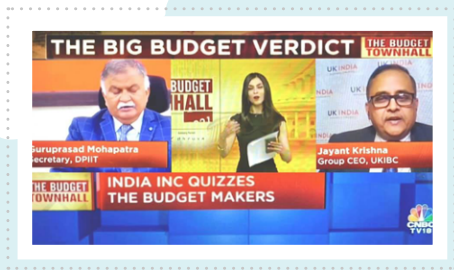
Friends and partners There is a huge opportunity to move UK-India economic agenda forward in key areas

RICHARD HEALD

The UK-India trade partnership has a long history, and the UKIBC has been a key player in this partnership. The council has been instrumental in fostering trade and investment between the two countries, and its efforts are more important than ever in the current climate of global uncertainty.

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THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WE PRODUCED:



42
BLOGS



6
OP-EDS



14
INTERVIEWS



14
PRESS RELEASES

MANY OF THESE WERE FEATURED IN:



WITH OVER
1.1 million
VIEWS ON @UKIBC TWEETS



AND OVER
300,000
VISITS TO OUR WEBSITE



REPORTS

We published 4 reports in 2020. These included our annual Doing Business in India and Advocacy Reports, as well as our sector specific reports in partnership with UKIBC members, KPMG and Clarke Energy.



UKIBC'S 6TH ANNUAL DOING BUSINESS IN INDIA REPORT: THE UK PERSPECTIVE

We asked UK companies operating in India about India's business environment, why they want to do business in India, the challenges they have faced, and their priorities for the future. We also examined what the impact of Brexit, COVID-19, and Atmanirbhar Bharat are having on UK companies' plans in India. UK's higher education institutions were also included in this survey. [Read more](#)



UK INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL: ADVOCATING BUSINESS SUCCESS IN 2020

This booklet showcases the breadth of advocacy we delivered in 2019 for our members and the corporate sector entering and expanding in India and the UK, and outlines our expanded advocacy efforts for 2020. [Read more](#)



SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

The focus of this paper, produced in partnership with Clarke Energy, is on the different technologies that are available, such as anaerobic digestion, composting, incineration, and the technologies that would be advisable for India to fulfil its Paris Agreement, SDGs as well as achieving sustainable economic growth. [Read more](#)



OPPORTUNITIES IN THE INDIAN AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE INDUSTRY

This report, produced in partnership with KPMG, outlines the opportunities in the Indian Defence and Aerospace industry, including an overview of India's defence manufacturing sector, key reforms and opportunities. [Read more](#)

IN MARCH 2021 WE PUBLISHED OUR FIRST SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT



SUPPORTING INDIA'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF UK BUSINESSES IN INDIA

This report is the first of UKIBC's Socio-Economic Impact initiative, which works to highlight the contribution of UK businesses in India relative to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It further seeks to determine the opportunities for businesses to do more to contribute to India's SDGs agenda by bringing light to the challenges that prevent such action as well as examining and comparing India's needs and the UK's strengths to support. [Read more](#)

INTERACTIONS

Once the lockdowns in the UK and India forced our events to go virtual, we transitioned quickly to continue to provide engaging content for our members and clients through virtual roundtables and webinars.

IN 2020, WE HELD A TOTAL OF 66 EVENTS, WITH 2143 ATTENDEES ACROSS OUR EVENTS, MADE UP OF:



21

WEBINARS



5

IN-PERSON ROUNDTABLES



39

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLES



1

SEMINAR



ADVOCATING FOR UK-INDIA TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Our extensive policy and advocacy efforts cover multiple sectors, from higher education to food and drink to healthcare and others between.

Many of our successes are the result of years of advocacy work with stakeholders at all levels of Government in both the UK and India. Below are some of the key areas where the UKIBC has achieved advocacy wins, representing significant progress that has helped to advance the UK-India trade and investment relationship.

Indian Finance Minister Increases the FDI Cap for Insurance Sector from 49% to 74% (Feb 2021)

As its advocacy efforts for the insurance sector, UKIBC had recommended an increase of the FDI cap to give a majority control to the overseas investor. UKIBC had also included it in the Budget Expectations submitted to the India's Finance Minister in December 2020. Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Increased the FDI Cap for Insurance Sector from 49% to 74% in her Budget announcements made on 1st February 2021.

Indian Government cuts Corporate Tax Rate (CTR) from 30% to 25.17% (Sept 2019)

The UKIBC has long advocated to the Government of India, including at a meeting with India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Piyush Goyal, in London in July 2019, for India to cut its corporate tax in line with major economies. The introduction of this more globally-competitive tax rate will have a positive impact, not just for the major manufacturers, but all the way through the supply chains as businesses will now be able to reinvest more of their profits in innovation and expansion. [Read more](#)

Drug Pricing Rationalisation (Dec 2019)

In December 2019, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), India's drug pricing regulator, increased the ceiling prices of 21 formulations by 50 percent. This is a point for which the UKIBC has been advocating for since the launch of our report '[Drug Pricing in India: Regulation to foster innovation, accessibility and affordability](#)'. The UKIBC has long made the point that drug pricing requires a careful balancing act. If the price is too low, innovation will be discouraged and reduce the availability of important medicines. This announcement by the NPPA was therefore a step in the right direction, and one which will benefit the Indian healthcare system and those that depend on it.

[Read more](#)

Reinstatement of UK Post-Study Working Visa to two years (Sept 2019)

The UKIBC have consistently advocated for the two-year post-study work visa to be reinstated through events and submissions to the UK Government. This is in addition to evidence we submitted to the UK Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on International Students in 2018. Not only does the reinstatement to two years significantly enhance the competitiveness of the UK's education offer on the world-stage, and vastly improve perceptions about the UK in India, but rightly encourages many of the best Indian graduates of UK universities to retain their talent within the UK. In turn this provides new graduates an opportunity to gain work experience after their degree to find employment. [Read more](#)

Law Commission Report recommends the Legalisation and Regulation of Sports Betting and Gaming (July 2018)

In 2018, the Law Commission of India submitted a comprehensive and pragmatic legal framework to the Indian Government that recommends the regulation of gambling and sports betting in India.

The recommendations were put together following several rounds of stakeholder consultations and inputs. The UKIBC and UK industry were closely engaged in the process, including hosting the Law Commission Chairman in the UK, providing insights into how the UK regulates sports betting. This move, we believe, is positive to protect the integrity of sport, stamp out corruption, expand the tax base, and stimulate more investment and job creation in the Indian economy. [Read more](#)

KEY ADVOCACY WINS BY SECTOR

Thanks to consistent progress in recent years, including the reforms described above, the UK-India trade and investment relationship was in good shape going into 2020 and it has been another year of significant progress across all sectors.



DIGITAL AND DATA SERVICES

Our key advocacy goals for the year were:

- Clarification on data localisation – the 3 buckets
- Creation of an independent regulator
- A Common Data Agreement between the UK and India for cross border data flow for innovation

As one of the three bilateral working groups launched at the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) in 2019, the UKIBC and our Indian partners, the CII, brought together business and government in the digital sector to help to overcome key challenges faced by companies in the trade corridor. Based on inputs from the bilateral working groups, we submitted a detailed set of recommendations on market access issues to the Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI) and the UK's Department for International Trade (DIT) at the JETCO bilateral in July 2020. The report and recommendations were welcomed by Ministers and will contribute to the UK-India Enhanced Trade Partnership.

In May 2020, we hosted a webinar on the 'Importance of Data: Encouraging Innovation' and made a subsequent submission to the Government of India on behalf of our members. This highlighted the importance of: appropriate Data Protection Legislation that balances innovation and privacy; globally aligned policies around digital trade and services; the need for robust digital infrastructure supported by a strong telecommunications sector; and the importance of public-private partnership providing solutions. All these elements help create a diverse, vibrant and robust tech sector that can be drawn on to offer expertise and delivery capabilities to governments and citizens. [Read more](#)

In June 2020, we hosted another webinar on cybersecurity and preparedness amid cyber-attacks. As this is an area of interest to both businesses and Governments, we will continue to support the UK and Indian Governments and members advocating for appropriate legislation and regulation in this area.

For a number of years, the most important area of focus for us has been the Data Protection Bill followed by the Non-Personal Data Regulation framework that was shared by India's Non-Personal Data Regulation committee in July. The UKIBC represented the views of our members to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in September. We are awaiting the second draft of the Non-Personal Data Regulation framework ahead of further engaging with key decision makers within Government of India.

In September 2020, the UKIBC made another submission to MeitY with recommendations from members on the Report by the Committee of Experts on Non-Personal Data Governance Framework, which leaves various grey areas in respect to the definitions of the different types of data and roles of stakeholders within the ecosystem. This could potentially cause confusion and possible misuse, undermining rather than enabling data innovations. This has raised concern amongst companies on protecting their IP and trade secrets which could be a significant deterrent for FDI, and consequently we made several appropriate recommendations as to how this can be resolved. We were really pleased to follow our submission up with a submission on the revised report in January 2021, which gathered the views of our members and clients.

Changes to the Other Service Providers (OSP) rules were restricting interconnectivity and shared infrastructure with international OSPs, impacting business from expanding BPO voice services from India. In November, our advocacy efforts resulted in revised rules that eliminated requirements to obtain registration, simplifying compliance requirements and permitting companies to share infrastructure and centralised EPABX. This revision will not only boost and expand access to talent and increase job creation but also strengthen India's pitch to attract more FDI in the sector by improving the ease of doing business ranking.

CONTINUING IN 2021

In 2021, we will continue to host members of the JETCO working groups in our roundtables and discussions, gathering and consolidating their invaluable feedback and supporting the Governments in developing the framework of the Enhanced Trade Partnership.

We will advocate for data regulation (both Personal and Non-Personal) that balances privacy and innovation and allows cross border data flows between the UK and India. This will push our key recommendations of the UKIBC [Data Report](#) regarding India's Data Protection Bill and Non Personal Data Protection Bill, as well as reinforcing a long-term UK-India Data Adequacy Agreement towards improving the ease of doing business for members.

Standards alignment between UK and India will also be a key goal in 2021. Standards play a vital role in supporting economic growth, by promoting productivity and efficiency in companies, facilitating international trade, catalysing innovation, and reducing technical barriers to trade.

We will also continue to advocate for further investment in digital infrastructure to provide a sustainable commercial environment, with a stable and predictive regulatory framework. Moreover, we believe that collaboration on capacity building, upskilling and reskilling will be vital for the UK and India's economic development.

If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved with our digital innovation work, get in touch with our specialist, [Meghna Misra-Elder](#) at meghna.misra-elder@ukibc.com



Data report launch in Delhi



FOOD AND DRINK

Our key advocacy goals for the year were:

- Streamlining of food and drink standards related to imports under ease of doing business
- Regulatory reform at the State level
- At the border approvals for imports

The UKIBC has helped the UK to consolidate itself as a key partner to India in the food and drink sector, including on several notable advocacy wins. Our success in recent years is testament to India's food and drink imports rising by 14 percent from 2013 to 2019, from GBP 17 billion in 2013 to GBP 19 billion in 2019.

As we did for digital and data services, the UKIBC, together with CII, brought together businesses in the food and drink sector at JETCO in July 2020, as one of three priority sectors. The food and drink bilateral working group presented their inputs and we submitted a detailed set of recommendations on market access issues and barriers to trade to the Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI) and the UK's Department for International Trade (DIT). This has contributed to the Enhanced Trade Partnership between the UK and India, which the UKIBC will continue to support into 2021 and beyond.

In January 2020, we secured an important advocacy win related to the expansion of the rectifiable labeling deficiency. The UKIBC made repeated representations to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to enable rectifications to be made at a custom bonded warehouse in India upon arrival on the basis of accompanying documents like invoices, certificates of analysis, and Bills of Entry.

[Read more](#)

Also in January 2020, the special committee to improve ease of doing business in the State of Maharashtra acted upon 80 percent of a series of asks presented by UKIBC's food and drink members in the months previous. This activity began at a UKIBC led business delegation in the State of Maharashtra in 2019 and resulted in direct intervention from the then Chief Minister of the State.

UKIBC, on behalf of our members, highlighted the benefits of e-governance for the industry on several occasions in January and February 2020, outlining that doing so would enhance efficiencies and transparency for the food business operators. The unified approach as adopted by UKIBC, which included working with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and other key stakeholders, resulted in reforms that bring greater transparency for excise, license for sale, import, and export permit of alcoholic beverages in India.

In spite of the COVID-19 lockdown, the UKIBC continued to make representations to GoI agencies, including DPIIT, FSSAI, Ministry of Shipping, Invest India to support food and drink members challenges by lockdown-imposed restrictions. These representations resulted in several wins to support business:

- Permitting sale and home delivery of alcoholic beverages in select states;
- States granting operational permits for the alcoholic beverage sector;
- Ministry of Shipping granted an interim waiver from the detention and demurrage fees to the importers;
- Ministry of Home Affairs permitted interstate movement of goods;
- Extension on usage of pre-printed packaging material granted by the Legal Meteorology Department under the Department of Consumer Affairs;
- FSSAI and Indian Customs department accepting electronic copies of the supporting documents for the duration of the national lockdown.

UKIBC's sustained engagements with the FSSAI resulted in the issuing of a directive to operationalise certain provisions of the draft Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Amendment Regulations, 2020. The provisions include the addition of alcohol-free beer as a separate product category, providing clarity to businesses on the use of nomenclature and ease the market access of products falling under that category. UKIBC, on behalf of the UK food and drink companies, engaged with FSSAI officials on several occasions, including on the publication of the alcohol-free beer.

UKIBC reached out to the FSSAI advocating that certain products not recognised by FSSAI as meeting applicable standards, despite global recognition, should be included in the FSSAI's draft standards. Our efforts resulted in the inclusion of Shea Butter in the draft standards. This move is anticipated to benefit the UK businesses that use this globally approved ingredient and remove any ambiguity around the same.

In December 2020, FSSAI excluded alcoholic beverages from the mandatory nutritional labeling requirements, exempting alcoholic beverages from convoluted requirements such as expiry date and provision of vegetarian and non-vegetarian logo.

CONTINUING IN 2021

In 2021, the UKIBC food and drink team is committed to continuing and building on our advocacy success in 2020. Our goals are centered around attaining e-governance, ease of doing business reforms, and fostering greater trade linkages between our two economies.

These efforts will see us continue to engage with the Governments and industry from both the UK and India.

We will continue to push for streamlining of food and drink standards related to imports under ease of doing business. We will push for regulatory reform at the state level, and we will work closely with relevant Government of India bodies to attain e-governance.

If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved with our food and drink work, get in touch with our specialist, **Shubhi Mishra** at shubhi.mishra@ukibc.com



Shubhi at Department for International Trade and FIF's Food is Great event.



UKIBC's Shubhi Mishra and UKIBC strategic partners with India's Minister for Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Our key advocacy goals for the year were:

- A UK-India Mutual Recognition of Degrees Agreement
- Look beyond the overall global ranking to identify UK universities with the specialisms to fit
- Establish a clear roadmap of guidelines for foreign universities to operate in India

On 29th July, 2020 India's Union Cabinet approved the country's new National Education Policy. Several UKIBC recommendations, submitted in two reports to the MHRD in 2019 – **'India's New Education Policy'** and **'Beyond the Top 200 – Effective International Collaboration for Indian Higher Education'** – were included in India's National Education Policy 2020, including:

- Allowing top 100 foreign universities to deliver degrees in India
- Simplification of the education regulatory framework (HECI replacing UGC and AICTE)
- Embracing online courses and digital platforms to increase access to education
- Integrating vocational training into mainstream education
- Greater international collaboration

The new policy's emphasis on enhancing quality, equity, universal access, social inclusion, flexible degrees, teacher training, research and embedding technology in all aspects of education is to be commended, as is the decision to rename the HRD Ministry as the Ministry of Education and replace the UGC and AICTE with a common higher education regulator, the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI).

In August 2020, we met with the Joint Secretary of the MHRD to better understand the NEP guidelines around internationalisation and offer our support in formulation of the rules. In September 2020, we organised a webinar along with FICCI on the implications of the NEP for UK universities and internationalisation as defined by the NEP.

In April 2020, the UKIBC submitted two letters to the UK Home Secretary, Priti Patel: the first recommending the extension of the post-study work visa period due to the disruption of COVID-19, and the second requesting clarification on the new Graduate Immigration Route (GIR). In response, the Secretary of State confirmed that the GIR will be launched in the summer of 2021 and answered clarifications we put forward on behalf of our member universities.

We also wrote to the Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and other relevant Ministries in April 2020 recommending that UK universities of any ranking be allowed to offer online degrees in collaboration with Indian partners. This would be a win-win outcome for all – students, graduate employers, and higher education institutions – given that demand for online education in India far outweighs supply.

We have also developed our work on University Social Responsibility, including the launch of our latest USR guidebook titled **'University Social Responsibility: From Dialogue to Implementation'** and shared its findings via a webinar in April 2020. In September 2020, we launch our USR Consortium and have been recruiting university members since then, as well as hosting multiple webinars on USR in collaboration with Hyderabad University and University of East Anglia.

In February 2021, we held our Higher Education Virtual Delegation. Our member universities joined us for a week of interactive sessions, webinars and summits, discussing topics such as India's new NEP, the future of skills, and opportunities for university corporate partnerships. We also launched our University Corporate Partnerships Report exclusively for our members, detailing the desires of UK universities and Indian corporates and how we can better help them to achieve those.

CONTINUING IN 2021

With a view to amplifying our advocacy impact, we will continue to work with important stakeholders, such as the Russell Group, Universities UK International (UUKi), British Council and the Association of Indian Universities, as well as the relevant departments in both Governments, and our member universities.

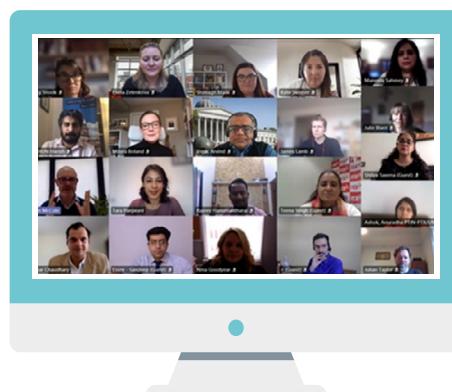
The new NEP represents significant progress for India's higher education sector, however there were also some missed opportunities that we will work towards in 2021. The UKIBC believes that the Government of India's intention to allow foreign education providers to partner with Indian institutions is a step in the right direction but, as set-out in our November 2018 report "Beyond the Top 200", we believe that limiting participation to the top 100 will not achieve the Ministry of Education's goals. A more flexible approach is needed which would look beyond global rankings and allow collaboration with foreign higher education institutions in a way that matches India's social and economic priorities with the best curriculum from across the world.

Additionally, we will continue to push on the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications, and NEP Guidelines around Online Degrees and Research Funding.

If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved with our higher education work, get in touch with our specialist, [Tara Panjwani](mailto:tara.panjwani@ukibc.com) at tara.panjwani@ukibc.com



Higher Education Delegation to Telangana, led by UKIBC's Tara Panjwani.



UKIBC personnel with delegates on our first virtual Higher Education Delegation.



LEGAL, PROFESSIONAL, BANKING, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND INSURANCE

Our key advocacy goals for the year were:

- Opening up of the insurance sector
- Mutual recognition of professional qualifications which allow professionals to practice in another jurisdiction
- Infrastructure procurement

UKIBC has continued to push financial services challenges throughout the year, helping to address the untapped potential that exists between the UK and Indian financial services industries. We have hosted a number of webinars and thought leadership blogs looking at the key barriers needing to be addressed.

Sustainable investing is a particular area where there is enormous opportunity. The UKIBC is part of the Sustainable Finance group to come out of the UK-India Economic Financial Dialogue held in October 2020.

We have worked with key partners including the Association of British Insurers and the City of London on the opportunities the opening up of the insurance market would bring to India. The Indian insurance sector is expected to be worth GBP 225 billion by 2025. India is therefore seen as a priority market for UK Insurance companies. Despite being the 12th largest insurance market globally with 1.6 percent of the world's premiums, India is significantly underinsured; current insurance penetration levels are around 3.4 percent well under the Asia average of 5 percent.

The success in the opening up of the insurance brokerage market was a green shoot in this area in 2020. Yet, progress to open the insurance market in India has been slow. UKIBC took up with the Finance Ministry as a part of its Union Budget 2021-22 recommendations that the insurance sector FDI limit should be increased from 49 to 74 percent, if not 100 percent. We were therefore delighted to see in the 2021 budget the insurance intermediaries sub sector was opened-up, with increased foreign investment limits in insurance companies from 49 percent to 74 percent.

As well as the creation of new employment opportunities, technology transfer through innovation and additional tax revenues from profits, India will also greatly benefit from reducing risks for business investing in India. The ability for investors to mitigate their risk through insurance products will help to reduce some of the perceived challenges when investing in India.

We have been highlighting the large disparity in the tax system in India for the banking sector with foreign owned branch's paying almost twice as much in tax (43.68 percent effective versus 25.17 percent) as local banks creating an unfair playing field.

In November 2020, we held a roundtable looking ahead to the Indian budget in February 2021 and subsequently made a submission to the Finance Ministry highlighting this disparity. Overcoming this disparity would attract new banks and capital into India creating employment and enhancing the banking offering in India.

There is a huge need for capital within India to help support this growth especially with new ESG (Environmental, Sustainable and Governance) funds but only 1 percent of the global investment pot is currently invested in India compared to 18 percent in Europe.

As well as the huge economic gain for both counties there will also be a huge environment benefit to India in achieving its Paris climate accord emissions targets by attracting much needed capital into low carbon energy projects.

CONTINUING IN 2021

It was great to begin 2021 with an advocacy win as the Union Budget announced in February 2021 saw the increased foreign investment limits in insurance companies from 49 percent to 74 percent.

UKIBC will continue to promote the opening up of the insurance sector through the creation of our Insurance Sector Advocacy Group. This group will meet on a quarterly basis and bring together key players from the insurance world as well as key trade bodies. The group will look at key barriers to entry and create submissions to be put forward to relevant ministries.

We will further our agenda on rationalisation and parity of tax rates between foreign and domestic companies in India. In all cases, the UKIBC will use our platforms and regular meetings with the Indian Prime Minister's office, Finance Ministry and Invest India to highlight this disparity and request for alignment.

Thirdly, UKIBC will be part of the IUKFP group created to look at the issues around of sustainable finance into India. Working with our members we will continue to challenge barriers preventing sustainable finance from entering India.

If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved with legal, professional and financial services work, get in touch with our specialist, **Chris Heyes** at chris.heyес@ukibc.com



UKIBC Director Chris Heyes with UKIBC members at a roundtable at RICS, London to look at challenges UK non-financial professional services have in India.



LIFE SCIENCE AND HEALTHCARE

Our key advocacy goals for the year were:

- Increase in Government Expenditure on Healthcare
- Reducing the frequency of policy revisions around drug prices
- Exemptions in public procurement process

Healthtech was already a growing industry and an area in which the UK and India can collaborate to the benefit of both populations. COVID-19 has not only brought the advantages of good healthcare to light but also accelerated its adoption.

To be able to harness the full potential of healthtech, Governments need to work hard to address some key challenges including: developing the appropriate legislation and regulation and ethical guidelines; providing appropriate digital infrastructure to carry out the health-related process digitally; consolidating patient records electronically; and an appropriate Data Protection Bill to balance privacy and innovation.

As one of the three JETCO bilateral working groups, our advocacy efforts were focussed on the market access barriers faced by UK companies operating in India and contrarywise. Based on inputs from the working groups made up of UK and Indian businesses we submitted a very comprehensive report with recommendations to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) and Department for International Trade (DIT) and will be working on the key findings as part of our sector advocacy delivery. The report and recommendations were welcomed by Ministers and will contribute to the UK-India Enhanced Trade Partnership.

We have consistently engaged with key decision makers and stakeholders in India throughout the year to ease regulatory challenges faced by businesses around issues like intellectual property, revision of the National List of Essential Medicines and price capping.

In February 2020, the Government of India announced the amendment of Para 32 of the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), which creates a provision for the exemption of certain drugs (patented under the Indian Patents Act, 1970) from price control. The exemption was welcomed by pharma businesses as a significantly progressive step which would further enhance the perception of India globally by encouraging innovation and strengthening FDI in the sector.

In September 2020, we made a submission on behalf of our members in the pharma sector to India's National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) on specific challenges faced by them pertaining to IP, revision of the National List of Essential Medicines and price capping. This was followed by a meeting with the NPPA in December 2020, welcoming the feedback from businesses.

In addition to this, we organised a discussion around skills in healthcare focusing on current challenges and opportunities of collaboration between UK and India.

CONTINUING IN 2021

The UKIBC will continue to facilitate further collaboration within the healthtech sector in the coming year. Digital healthcare is an inviting opportunity for UK-India collaboration because of the UK's leading capabilities coupled with India's capabilities in tele-medicine, advanced diagnostics, and home healthcare, as well as the need to further improve its healthcare systems.

We began 2021 with a meeting for our members with the Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, the UK's IPO (Intellectual Property Office UK) and DIT to discuss how to unlock further investment and R&D in India. Led by our Healthcare sector lead Meghna Misra-Elder and CEO Jayant Krishna, it was great to have constructive conversations and continue our ongoing engagement with the DoP to support our members and India's pharma industry. We will continue to engage with the DoP and our members on this issue.

As part of the JETCO delivery, we will continue to engage with both Governments and business to overcome market access barriers and facilitate ease of doing business.

We will also be looking at India's Personal and Non-Personal data regulation as access and transfer of data will be crucial for healthtech.

Working with the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO), another focus is on the UK and India having strong and harmonised intellectual property regimes, particularly around enforcement and speedy conflict resolution. We will also work closely with the IPO to facilitate more engagement with industry.

We will be working towards developing common, and high, standards between the UK and India. Regulatory alignment in this area, paving the way to a UK-India Mutual Recognition Agreement, would help to boost bilateral trade and investment.

Finally, we will be furthering our work on price controls placed on over-the-counter health products, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices in India. This is perceived to be a significant barrier not just to trade, but also to innovation and leading to reduced access to the best care for India's citizens.

Additionally, we would step up our pitch for a further increase in Government expenditure on healthcare as part of the Union Budget outlay.

If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved with our life science and healthcare work, get in touch with our specialist, [Meghna Misra-Elder](mailto:meghna.misra-elder@ukibc.com) at meghna.misra-elder@ukibc.com



UKIBC's Meghna Misra-Elder with Ruchi Ghanashyam, former High Commissioner of India to the UK, and Dr. Aman Puri, Consul General of India, Birmingham.



UKIBC's Advocacy Meeting with India's National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.



SPORTS AND GAMING

Our key advocacy goals for the year were:

- Clarification of rules around betting
- Suring up of inconsistencies currently being applied
- Promote clear and transparent regulation

In 2020, we continued to push for the regulation and legalisation of sports betting and online gaming through meetings with various stakeholders. This has involved information exchanges with policy groups, sports administrators, the media, the Government of India (including the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Ministry of Sport and Ministry of Finance), State Governments and parliamentarians across India.

Indian gaming market's turnover is USD 120 billion and most of it is unregulated, and it is clear from the evidence that both the unregulated and regulated gaming sectors in India will continue to grow significantly. The regulation of the sports betting and gaming industry in India would help to uphold sporting integrity, reduce corruption, expand the tax base, and attract investment to India.

Our report 'Gaming for Growth – India's Sports and Gaming Market Potential' comprises an analysis of the gaming industry in India, including the size of the Indian market and betting engagement, at a state level. We have developed our own gaming legalisation index (based on a survey of 2000 respondents) for the Indian market, measuring the extent to which each State has legalised betting and gaming.

Progress is slowly being made, in line with the Law Commission's recommendations to ensure that regulation is game-neutral, centrally regulated, and clear. We have also engaged with influential think tanks such as NITI Aayog, helping to put online gaming on the agenda.

Race clubs and allied animal husbandry were facing severe financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, as were State tax revenues - GST collected from racetracks by States was approximately Rs. 300 crores. Our efforts resulted in online regulation of horse betting in Karnataka, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Telangana, thereby providing GST revenue of approximately Rs. 300 crores to the State and supporting the animal husbandry industry.

We voiced these goals and the benefits that strong regulation and legalisation would bring to India in an Op-Ed featured in CNBC-TV18: Weighing the odds in the world of online gaming: Ban or regulate? [Read here](#)

CONTINUING IN 2021

Our advocacy goals for the sports and gaming market remain consistent in 2021. We will continue to advocate for the regulation and legalisation of sports betting and online gaming. We will resume our discussions with the governments of Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka on regulation of gaming, as well as working with other industry bodies like FICCI and AIGF.

The UKIBC will produce a white paper with the Turf Authority of India on good practices pertaining to online betting on horse racing.

If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved with our sports and gaming work, get in touch with our specialist, [Vidushpat Singhania](mailto:Vidushpat.Singhania@ukibc.com) at vidushpat.singhania@ukibc.com



A joint roundtable by UKIBC and FICCI with Law Commission of India on Regulating Sports Betting in India.



AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE

Our key advocacy goals for the year were:

- Technology collaboration and supply chain development in the sector
- Supply chain opportunities

In 2020, the UK and India have both stepped up their domestic agendas in defence and bilaterally. India now has the third highest military expenditure in the world and the UK approved the largest rise in its defence budget since the end of the Cold War. Collaboration between our nations will help to advance India's defence acquisition process and foster long-term technology and hardware transfers.

The UKIBC's Aerospace and Defence Industry Group (ADIG) – made up of prominent British aerospace and defence manufacturers – has built on these huge opportunities for collaboration.

We have long advocated for the FDI limit under the automatic route in defence manufacturing to be raised. In May 2020, we saw great success as the Government of India announced just this, raising the limit from 49 percent to 74 percent. This will benefit the sector by attracting further investment and technology into India, therefore supporting India's Make in India strategy. The move will also enhance R&D to develop and deploy solutions catering specifically to the country's security needs, and result in more cutting-edge technologies available for India's defence forces.

The Final DPP 2020, rechristened as 'Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020', was released by the Defence Minister Mr Rajnath Singh in September 2020. The DAP 2020 provides guidelines for all capital acquisitions to be made by the Ministry of Defence and is applicable for five years from 1st October 2020. The UKIBC has been formally recognised in the press release by the MoD as a key stakeholder whose inputs were incorporated into the DAP 2020. This followed a UKIBC submission, built with inputs from members, containing 34 recommendations, which included 22 recommendations related to the important aspect of offsets.

In August 2020, UKIBC, with our partners KPMG, came together to produce our 'Report on opportunities in the Indian Aerospace and Defence Industry'. Defence and Aerospace remains a critical sector for India and for the success of Make in India. Government initiatives have focussed on the adoption of modern technology in the defence sector, while developing indigenous manufacturing capability. At the same time, a flourishing Indian defence sector requires increased foreign technology transfer and foreign investment in India which will ultimately lead to co-development and co-creation of capabilities which can meet not just the needs of India but also be exported to third countries. View the report [here](#).

CONTINUING IN 2021

As part of the 2021 objectives in the Aerospace sector, we are working towards enabling technology collaboration and development in future platforms and critical aerospace technology. ADIG members were represented at Aero India 2021 in Bangalore in February 2021, and we look forward to further continuing our support throughout the year.

We also co-hosted a symposium on Counter-Explosive Ordnance (C-EO) in February 2021 with Defence and Security Exports (DSE), DIT, and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), providing an opportunity for UK companies to present their world class offering and discuss opportunities for partnerships and collaborations with others - a really valuable session in an area with great potential to not only save lives but increase trade and collaborate with India to create jobs.

In the Maritime sector, we will engage with all private and DPSU shipyards, with efforts focused on design and construction of future warships and submarines, electric propulsion and indigenous carrier development, and weapons and sensors. In the Homeland Security sector, we will engage with States to further the interests of UK companies specialising in this domain, working towards police modernisation, coastal security and disaster response.

We will be focused on building networks between UK and Indian mid and small-cap firms through our partnership with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and we will also continue to advocate for improvements in the procurement environment.

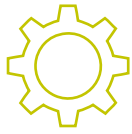
If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved with our aerospace and defence work, get in touch with our specialist, **Richard McCallum** at richard.mccallum@ukibc.com



UKIBC's Richard McCallum at DefExpo in February 2020 where we signed an MoU with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers.



Dickie and Jayant with UK Trade Commissioner for South Asia, Alan Gemmell, at the virtual launch of our Aerospace & Defence Report.



ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND ENGINEERING

Our key advocacy goals for the year were:

- Expanding FDI in Defence
- Strengthening IP Enforcement
- Technology collaboration and commercialisation of research, with focus on setting up catapult-style centres of excellence in India

India is expected to become the fifth largest manufacturing country in the world with advanced manufacturing and engineering forming a central pillar in the Government of India's economic vision. Businesses and public sector organisations share great complementarities that can support each other to the next level. These include: technology collaboration; supply chain collaboration; and newer manufacturing technologies.

On technology collaboration, we have been pressing for the establishment of an India-UK centre of excellence for advanced engineering technology collaboration on similar lines as the Catapult Centres in the UK. Furthermore, continuing to strengthen India's IP enforcement will enhance India's manufacturing sector's confidence and comparative advantage, especially in the ease of developing and deploying digital technology.

Additionally, our advanced manufacturing members took part in many meetings we held with Ministers and top officials from the Government of India and State Governments to discuss the operating environment and work together to overcome the challenges to doing business for the better of UK-India advanced manufacturing and engineering collaboration.

The Access India Programme that the UKIBC runs with High Commission of India is supporting UK SMEs to enter the Indian market, with a special focus on advanced manufacturing and engineering. We have held numerous workshops throughout the year as part of the programme.

CONTINUING IN 2021

In 2021, we will continue to engage with Government of India, UK Government and with our members and clients, through meetings, roundtables and webinars on helping improve the overall ease of doing business in India and supporting the "Make in India" initiative of the Government of India.

We will seek to better regulatory issues to make it easier for our members and clients to do business, such as further simplification of taxation and labour reforms and increasing regulatory certainty.

This will aim to bolster technology collaboration and co-development of key products in India by UK companies, leading up to supply chains and value chains, and supporting Make in India. Key areas will include: development of supply chains given the global focus on diversifying supply chains; technology collaboration leading up to business-academia interaction; electric vehicles and associated industry.

If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved with our advanced manufacturing and engineering work, get in touch with our specialist, **Prasenjit Dhar** at prasenjit.dhar@ukibc.com

REFRESHED FOR 2021: ENERGY TRANSITION AND CLIMATE ECONOMY

Given the growing focus in the UK and India on the transition to a net-zero carbon economies, and with the UK chairing the UN Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021, the UKIBC is launching an energy transition and climate economy sector advocacy group, which will be made up of members interested in cleaner energy and renewable technologies including solar, offshore wind, energy storage, waste-to-energy, e-mobility, smarter grid solutions, improving energy efficiency, use of cleaner fuels, and carbon capture and sequestration technologies.

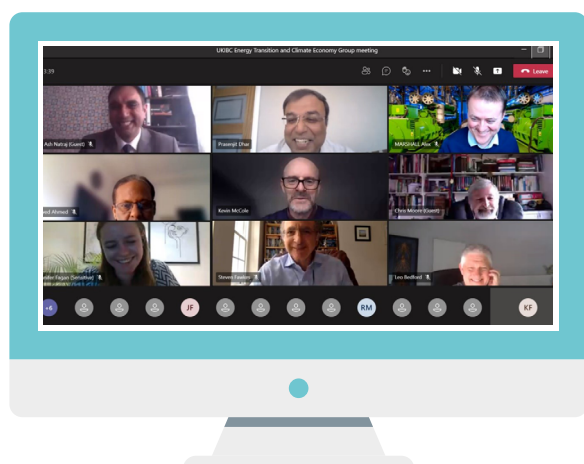
To support these members, the UKIBC will engage with the UK and Indian governments to address regulatory challenges that the sector is facing in India at the state and union levels. This will involve engagement with various Ministries, including Ministry of Power; Renewable Energy; Environment Forests & Climate Change; Science & Technology; Petroleum; DPIIT; and the PMO. In the UK, we will work closely with DIT, BEIS, FCDO leading up to the COP26 meeting in November.

With its fast-growing low carbon infrastructure and its major plans with regard to energy transition, India is emerging as a major player working towards reduction in climate change impacts. The Indian government is very keen to further this agenda but would need international support on various aspects including access to good practices in enabling policy and regulation, technology collaboration, supporting B2G and B2B engagement, and innovative ways of financing, among others.

The UKIBC sees this as an area with great opportunity for bilateral cooperation. In particular, our engagement will support and work towards:

- Lower carbon energy solutions for high-energy consuming industry sectors
- Greater collaboration between the UK and India to adopt cleaner, or low carbon, renewable energy technologies in areas like energy generation and smarter grids and cities.
- Building up industry government dialogues on policy and regulation and good practices leading up to COP26 in November.
- Facilitating technology transfers and R&D collaborations across areas leading to sustainable and clean development.

If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved with our energy transition and climate economy work, get in touch with our specialist, **Prasenjit Dhar** at prasenjit.dhar@ukibc.com



UKIBC's Energy sector lead Prasenjit Dhar and group members at the first meeting of the Energy Transition and Climate Economy Group in March 2021.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT INITIATIVE

The UKIBC's Socio-Economic Impact (SEI) initiative promotes sustainable and inclusive development in the UK and India. Working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), this initiative showcases the great work that UK companies are doing in India to improve social and economic development, aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Socio-economic development aims to improve the well-being of all members of society. It is achieved through improving both economic activity – such as increasing investment, developing new technology and techniques, and enhancing trade relations – and social outcomes – like nurturing education, improving healthcare, and protecting the environment.

In our discussions with UK and Indian Governments, we have highlighted the meaningful programmes and initiatives that UK companies are doing to support socio-economic development in India, and working towards the UN SDGs. We will continue to support our members and clients working to these ends, and encourage businesses of all sizes and sectors to do the same.

You can follow these developments on UKIBC's Socio-Economic Impact website at:

www.ukibc.com/socio-economic-impact

In November 2020, we partnered the British High Commission's Pledge for Progress campaign, a commitment to promote gender equality and take practical steps to tackle gender challenges in India. The campaign aims to empower organisations and individuals to build a gender-equal society through five key commitments that sees women: 1) lead; 2) represented 3) embedded 4) included and 5) mobilised. Increasing representation of women in all these areas is important and can help to generate attitudinal shifts both within the home and in the workplace and broader society.

CONTINUING INTO 2021

As well as supporting and showcasing our members and clients' sustainable development initiatives, the UKIBC has produced a Socio-Economic Impact paper to coincide with the UK's hosting of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). The report, launched at the beginning of the FY2021-22, showcases UK companies' positive impacts as well as outlining their views and priorities towards the SDGs.

If you are interested in finding out more or becoming involved with our socio-economic impact work, get in touch with our specialist, **Kealan Finnegan** at kealan.finnegan@ukibc.com



UKIBC Chair Richard Heald at the launch of the UKIBC's Socio-Economic Impact initiative at the British High Commission in New Delhi.



UK businesses, such as Cairn Energy, are contributing meaningfully to the SDGs in India.

MEMBERSHIP

As a member of the UK India Business Council you stay in control and accelerate rewards by taking advantage of the skills and knowledge of our team, as well as a unique network of other UKIBC members who include CEO-level executives with hands-on experience in India and UK.

Our team comprises of sector specialists with a deep understanding of your industry and the business and cultural environment in India and the UK; policy experts with know-how in political matters and regulatory issues; and a leadership team with experience, knowledge and connections to help your business succeed.

UK INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM

- Influence with governments through our policy advocacy work, including our Sector Advocacy Groups.
- Interactions with networks of other senior business leaders and political figures at our exclusive roundtables, dinners, conclaves and other membership events.
- Intelligence from, and profile within, UKIBC reports, interactions, and our other sources.

Membership also gives you access to our Sector Advocacy Groups. These groups combined with our events and programme generate insightful intelligence for our members, as well as bespoke access to likeminded businesses, speakers, contacts and content.

You can join and upgrade across three levels of membership: Corporate, Corporate Plus, and Strategic Partner (strategic partnership is a bespoke membership package by invitation only).

UKIBC MEMBERSHIP EVENTS	CORPORATE GBP 5,000* INR 500,000*	CORPORATE PLUS GBP 10,000* INR 1,000,000*
Access to UKIBC monthly intelligence newsletter	✓	✓
Invitations to 4 Receptions per year (2 in UK, 2 in India)	✓	✓
Invitation to 4 Leadership Insight Interactive round tables (2 in UK, 2 in India)	✓	
Invitation to 8 Leadership Insight Interactive round tables (4 in UK, 4 in India)		✓
Invitations to monthly webinar sessions	✓	✓
Invitation to host one of our monthly webinars		✓
Invitations to meetings with visiting the UK/India Indian Ministers and delegations	✓	✓
Invitations to 4 high level dinners per year (2 in UK, 2 in India)		✓
Two exclusive half day conclaves (1 in UK and 1 in India)		✓

**prices do not include VAT or GST.*

Interested in exploring how membership can deliver your business success?
Contact [Chris Heyes](#) at chris.hey@ukibc.com



UK INDIA

BUSINESS COUNCIL

WHO ARE WE

The UK India Business Council believes passionately that the UK-India business partnership creates jobs and growth in both countries. Through our insights, networks, and policy advocacy, we support businesses to succeed.

GET IN TOUCH

UK INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL LONDON

UK India Business Council
105 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QT
United Kingdom
enquiries@ukibc.com
Tel: +44 (0)20 7592 3040

UK INDIA BUSINESS CENTRE NEW DELHI

WeWork DLF Forum
Cyber City
Phase III
Sector 24
Gurugram Haryana – 122002
enquiriesindia@ukibc.com
Tel: +91 (0) 124 502 6059

DOING BUSINESS IN INDIA HELPLINE

For support call +44 (0)20 7592 3040

WEBSITE

www.ukibc.com