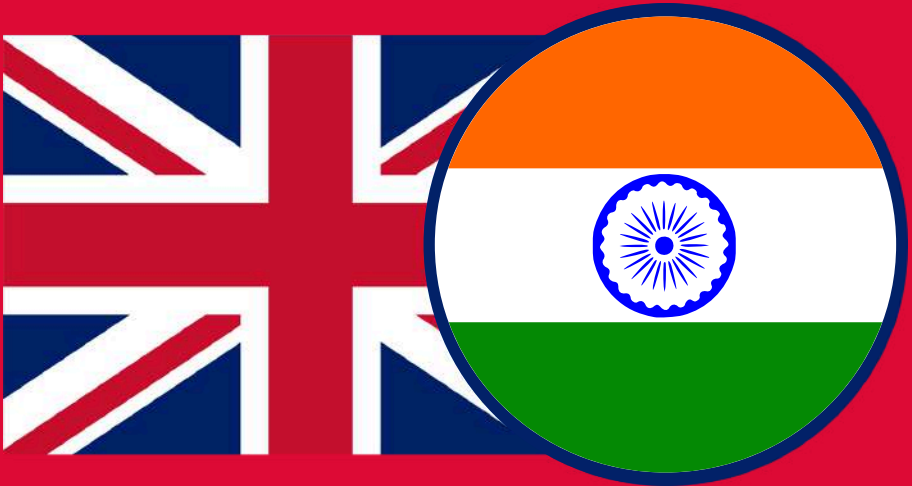


The UK-India Relationship

Perspectives on a Future Partnership
Labour Conference 2024



LABOUR
INDIANS



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Foreword from Our Chair

"I look forward to seeing the UK and India grow closer as partners in this changing world," said Prime Minister Keir Starmer, when he was Leader of the Opposition.

His sentiment underpins this pamphlet, which explores the evolving relationship between the United Kingdom and India. It also highlights the integral role of the Indian diaspora in contributing to the UK's economy and cultural fabric. The perspectives shared within offer a rich view of the vital necessity, diversity and potential of the UK-India partnership. Covering healthcare innovation, educational advancement, climate change action, AI coordination, economic growth, trade relations, sports diplomacy, workers' rights, pandemic preparedness, global security and the role of the Indian diaspora, these essays offer just a glimpse of boundless opportunities for collaboration and synergy at a pivotal time.

The Labour Party has always championed values of social justice, international cooperation, and growth - principles that resonate with the aspirations of both Britons and Indians. This booklet reflects the potential for deeper teamwork, whether through alliances or shared cultural and economic goals.

Labour Indians is a progressive organisation that actively supports the Labour Party by strengthening UK-India relations and amplifying the voice of British Indians and of other communities. Through political engagement, economic collaboration, and grassroots outreach, Labour Indians ensures that the concerns and contributions of its

stakeholders are acknowledged and reflected in Labour Party policies. This includes fostering a vibrant and strategic relationship with India, built on mutual respect and shared interests.

Our team is indebted to the talented writers who contributed to this pamphlet, despite tight deadlines, multiple commitments, and demanding schedules. We are especially grateful to the Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt, distinguished former Chair of the UK India Business Council and former Cabinet Minister, whose inspiration and counsel sparked the very idea of this collection.

By bringing together key voices, this work serves as a roadmap for building on past successes and exploring future possibilities. We invite all communities to join us in shaping a future defined by shared prosperity and unity.

Krish Raval OBE
Chair, Labour Indians

Labour Conference 2024

Welcome Message

'The relationship with India is key to the UK's success. We look forward to designing new and enhancing old pathways for a productive bi-lateral relationship.'

Gareth Thomas MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Business & Trade |
Patron, Labour Indians



India-UK Relations: A Partnership for the Future



H.E. Vikram Doraiswami

High Commissioner of India to the UK

India and the United Kingdom share a deep and dynamic relationship that has grown beyond its historical roots into a forward-looking partnership. Today, our two nations are connected not only by common values of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law but also by a shared vision for global prosperity, security, and sustainability. As vibrant democracies and leading economies, India and the UK are committed to building a partnership that delivers tangible benefits for our citizens and contributes to solving global challenges.

At the heart of this relationship is the ambitious India-UK Roadmap 2030, a comprehensive strategy that elevates our ties to the level of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This roadmap outlines our shared vision for revitalised trade, investment, and technological collaboration, as well as enhanced defence, security, and climate action. Underpinning this relationship is the remarkable India-UK "Living Bridge." The Indian diaspora in the UK, now numbering over 1.8 million, strengthens cultural bonds while contributing significantly to the prosperity of both nations.

With new governments in both countries, there is fresh momentum in the relationship. Together, we are keen to harness the immense opportunities that the rapidly evolving global economy presents. This calls for collaboration in science, technology, education, and digital public infrastructure. India's booming economy, paired with the UK's expertise in innovation, offers exciting potential for creating cutting-edge solutions that can drive growth and sustainability for both nations.

The landmark Technology and Security Initiative, signed during Secretary of State The Rt Hon David Lammy's visit to India in July, is a significant step in this direction.

It aims to foster deeper collaboration in seven high-tech sectors such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, advanced material, telecom, critical minerals, semiconductors, and biotech. In fact, it connects academia, business and policy makers in both countries, with the aim of making joint progress in these seven identified core areas of respective capabilities. Both sides are also steadfastly working on a comprehensive, mutually beneficial India-UK Free Trade Agreement, which will further strengthen this relationship.

India-UK ties are not limited to bilateral interests - they are also global in scope. In an increasingly interconnected world, India and the UK are committed to working not just for their own prosperity but for the greater good of the world. Whether combating climate change, strengthening global health security, or reforming the global order, we offer leadership in promoting a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable future. The collaboration in developing and manufacturing the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic is a clear example of how our partnership can have far-reaching, positive impacts.

As we look to the future, we are confident that the India-UK relationship will continue to thicken, grounded in our shared values and driven by mutual goals. Together, we will innovate, collaborate, and lead - not only for the benefit of our own countries but also for the world at large.

Indo-Atlanticism: A New Paradigm

Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt
Leicester West MP (1997-2010)



A broader, deeper and above all future-focused relationship with India and British Indians isn't just a nice-to-have for Labour. It's essential for the success of Labour's ambitions for our country.

Labour's Mission for Growth, for Green Energy, for Health and Opportunity depend upon investment, innovation and skills - all the ingredients of higher productivity.

The partnership between Oxford University, AstraZeneca and the Serum Institute of India produced extraordinary results when Covid struck: but it is just one of the many investment and innovation partnerships benefiting both our countries and others too.

Set to become the world's third largest economy before the end of this decade, India's capacity for innovation continues to astonish. The 'India Stack' - built upon a universal biometric identifier - powers the cash transfers and banking access that have helped lift nearly half a billion people out of poverty, eliminating much corruption and middlemen in the process. At its heart are companies like TCS that have been part of the UK for fifty years and who will be vital to Labour's ambition to transform our creaking public services through radical, digitally-enabled reform.

It's no coincidence that universities in every developed country are competing for Indian students, postgrads and academics. And Britain's education sector is a great export success story, bringing considerable economic benefits not only to the institutions themselves but also to their local communities and regions.

But the benefits go much deeper. British-born or newly arrived, students, researchers and budding entrepreneurs all benefit from expanded educational opportunities, building friendships and professional networks that span continents and cultures.

The successful pre-election visit to India by David Lammy and Jonathan Reynolds, followed by Lammy's visit in July as our new Foreign Secretary, signalled the priority the government, rightly, gives to India. And there are many bilateral partnerships that will continue to underpin the relationship including, I hope, a re-energised India-UK CEO Forum.

But now that India is the partner that everybody wants, this could be the time for a new - trilateral - approach. That's the suggestion of the 1928 Institute, founded by Oxford academics of Indian origin. They have coined the phrase 'Indo-Atlanticism' in recognition of the strong diaspora, language, business and cultural links across the three countries.

I should declare a personal interest here: to my great delight, I now have my own extended Indo-Atlantic family, thanks to my daughter's tech entrepreneur partner, the son of two Panjabi parents, who was born in the US, grew up and built his career in the UK, with a large extended family on both sides of the Atlantic as well as in India.

Both the UK and the US provide critical trade and investment opportunities for India. Both recognise and respect India's strategic autonomy and rapidly-growing influence on the world stage.

India's soft power - its food, yoga, glorious creative sectors and heritage, reinvented cricket, its high-profile and talented diaspora - has captured much of the UK and US. In return, the UK and US's soft power via educational institutions, media, creative industries, sport and so on capture the imagination of many Indians.

Why not create an institution to promote the mutually beneficial aspects of this soft power?

Furthermore, a socially mobile, entrepreneurial and integrated Indian diaspora in both the US and UK can and should be further utilised to promote trade and investment ties.

Touching on hard power, India is the number one importer of defence equipment in the world and aims to be an integral part of global security architecture. India's growing stature in world affairs enables it to pursue strategic partnerships with many countries, including the US and the UK. Meanwhile, the UK's vital defence and security sector is increasingly coupled with the US.

With India rapidly building its own advanced manufacturing capacity in defence, alongside green energy, transport, pharmaceuticals and med tech, there is ample scope for technology transfer, collaborative innovation and manufacturing partnerships.

There are many groupings in international politics, whether they are based on values, joint-heritage, language, trade or simply realpolitik. Everyone who knows India knows that, above all, it is all about relationships, built and sustained over many years. The UK's relationship with the US has been built over a century and more, not always smoothly, but always coming back to vital shared interests and common values. As our new government builds its relationships with the US and with India, a carefully constructed trilateral forum could play a vital role in years and decades to come.

*

Patricia Hewitt has had a long and close relationship with the South Asian and East African Indian diaspora community for over fifty years. She served as Labour MP for Leicester West from 1997 to 2010. After leaving government she chaired the UK India Business Council for eight years and now chairs the advisory board for the Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development (OISCD) based at Somerville College Oxford. She writes in a personal capacity.



The UK and India: A Shared Goal of Chasing the Future

Kanishka Narayan MP
Vice Chair, Labour Indians

In reflecting on our shared history, we often forget a key aspect that now binds Britain and India tightly together.

That the primary basis for this closest of relationships is our common attitude: that Britain and India are today countries chasing the future.

We chase the future together in technology. It is Indian software developers who power the largest proportion of GitHub AI projects of any country globally. It is Britain that produces the second largest number of significant machine learning systems. India's software talent matches Britain's AI excellence. Together, we chase the future of frontier artificial intelligence, grounded in our shared values.

We chase the future together in medicine. It was in Oxford that the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine was developed, but it was across Oxford, Keele, Wrexham and – crucially – Pune that it was produced at scale and at pace. Together, and in the toughest of moments, Oxford University, AstraZeneca and the Serum Institute chased the future of our shared humanity then, and chased it with aligned values that spread that vaccine.

And rooted in our past, we chase the future of our planet together. Britain and India shared a long history of conservation and of environmental activism. Today, we share now a relentless pursuit of the future: of innovations in clean energy that bend down the cost of renewable energy sources and secure our planet's future.

There is remarkable depth to our UK-India relationship. It has deep roots of historical nostalgia. To me, and to an entire generation of British politicians, there is even greater potential in the future promise of our bilateral relationship.

If the branches of technology, medicine and climate are to go by, the defining feature of the UK-India relationship will now be our shared future, not just our shared past.

As my colleagues and I begin the task of change, I am proud that the Labour Party will be at the vanguard of that shared UK-India future. In doing so, they will find a whole generation of us, Labour MPs, determined to make the future of UK-India ties deeper still than the history of those ties.

Using the ‘Living Bridge’ to Save Lives

Sojan Joseph MP | Ashford
& Dr Nikita Ved MBE FRSA |
Co-Chair, The 1928 Institute



As a Labour MP with a background in health, I was alarmed by the findings of the Darzi Report (2024) commissioned by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting. But it should also be used as a call to action. The report paints a clear picture of the pressures facing the NHS, particularly in managing chronic diseases like diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease (CVD). Conversely, India has become a global powerhouse in healthcare, prioritising community health, preventative medicine, and cutting-edge treatment, so much so, that it has now become an attractive destination for seeking medical care.

The Labour Government must act decisively to save the broken NHS the Conservatives have left the country. In doing so, Ministers should be willing to look beyond our borders to nations like India, where innovative approaches to healthcare delivery have emerged, despite significant challenges.

Lord Darzi highlights the devastating impact of delayed care for CVD, cancer, and the growing prevalence of diabetes, particularly among young people. These conditions strain NHS resources, with many patients not receiving the preventive care they need. Labour has always stood for comprehensive, publicly funded healthcare, but we now face a system buckling under the weight of rising demand and workforce shortages.

Learning from India’s Innovations in Digital and Preventative Healthcare

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has been transformative in India, giving citizens a digital ID, as well as giving them and hospitals access to their health records.

In responding to the Darzi Report, both Keir Starmer and Wes Streeting spoke about their goal of wanting to move the NHS from being an analogue to a digital service. In looking at how the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has been used in India, the Labour Government can perhaps learn how to fully transform the NHS app, so that patients here can book appointments, make self-referrals and receive reminders for check-ups and screenings, with surgeons and consultants being able to access their GP records.

Labour has always believed in bringing healthcare closer to the people, and I share the Labour Government's determination to shift more care from hospitals to local communities. India's 'Accredited Social Health Activist' (ASHA) programme offers a community-based model that aligns with this principle. ASHAs, trained community health workers, visit patients in remote areas, conducting health checks, promoting lifestyle changes, and ensuring continuous care for chronic conditions. Expanding a similar system in the UK—by increasing the number of community health workers—would decentralise care, ensuring that conditions are better managed at the community level. This would alleviate the pressure on GPs and hospitals, allowing them to focus on acute care.

Addressing NHS Workforce Issues

The Darzi Report makes clear that in many community and mental health trusts there are "needless recruitment and retention crises". I know from my own experiences of working in the NHS that there are huge vacancy rates across the professions. This leads to the NHS heavily relying on agency staff. As the Prime Minister made clear in his speech to the Kings Fund in response to the Darzi Report, this is hugely inefficient.

To address this, I believe there must be a greater emphasis on the recruitment and training of more locally based nurses and doctors. There also has to be a much greater emphasis on retaining the staff we have already working in the NHS.

In areas like East Kent, where my Ashford constituency is, the cost of living is high, everything possible must be done to ensure that we not only recruit new staff, but we retain the trained existing staff.

Of those staff, just over 60,000 people working in the NHS are Indian, according to a NHS Workforce Survey from last year. This was second only to those from the UK in the survey, and underlines the incredibly strong links that exist between the NHS and India.

Encouraging links with India

I would like to see the UK continue to build strong bilateral ties with India, which is of course a key ally. One way to do this is encourage greater educational link ups between UK universities and training hospitals and those in India. After all, India's medical workforce is globally recognised for its excellence. Encouraging greater working in this way would mutually benefit both countries and would help us learn from each other.

Enhancing Preventative Care

Preventative care has always been a priority for Labour. India's large-scale public health campaigns, targeting issues like physical inactivity and tobacco use, offer a model for us to emulate. These initiatives have shown success in lowering the incidence of chronic diseases across India, despite significant healthcare challenges. Labour could push for similar, far-reaching campaigns in the UK, particularly focusing on reducing the risk factors for diabetes and heart disease.

By investing in these preventative measures, we can reduce the long-term burden on the NHS, improve public health, and ensure that the NHS remains sustainable for future generations.

Conclusion

The Darzi Report is a wake-up call for all of us. As a Labour MP, I see this as an opportunity to reinvigorate the NHS through innovation, collaboration, and investment in both people and technology. By engaging with India's digital health solutions, community and health programs can help Labour to deliver a healthcare system fit for the 21st century; one that remains true to its founding principles of universal, equitable care for all.



UK-India Relations: No Longer 'Big Brother, Little Brother'

Lord Meghnad Desai
Professor Emeritus, LSE

The Labour Party is deservedly proud that when it won the 1945 elections, it had promised Indian independence in its Manifesto and by August 25th 1947, delivered on the promise. It was done in a friendly way which allowed India then to proceed to stay in the Commonwealth, even when it became a Sovereign Democratic Republic. The constitutional basis of the Commonwealth was changed to accommodate India.

Seventy seven years later, the UK-India relationship has got to be looked at in a different prospect. India is no more the proverbial poor, underdeveloped part of the Global South. India has bounded up its development stakes and is now talking in terms of trillions of dollars as its GDP, ahead of the UK and France.

Indeed while UK economy has been stagnating for the last fifteen years, India has been growing at 6% to 7%. Thus while UK had a lot to teach India in the immediate years after independence, the shoe may now be on the other foot.

It is in digitisation and fintech that India has achieved great results. Thus, every Indian person from new born babies onwards has an ID card - the Aadhar card which is used for transactional purposes as well as voting in elections. New Labour had proposed ID cards but the move had to be dropped because various people complained about the threat to our ancient liberties. Now that ID cards are required for voting in UK, it is time to learn from India.

The other big lesson to learn from India concerns the delivery of benefits. India used to have a system where benefits were passed on by members of the governing party to the claimants. The result was that barely a quarter reached its destination, the rest being swallowed up by the intermediaries. Now every one receiving benefits has a bank account in India and the benefits are paid directly into their bank accounts. This means millions of bank accounts in remote rural areas as much as in urban areas. Implementing this sort of digitisation and fintech advances will immensely improve our system.

It is time we began to learn from India the detailed complex way in which the poor and indigent households are given special favours - reservations - in jobs and in education - to level up opportunities. UK has much to benefit from studying India. Now that a Labour Government is back in power, the time has come for the UK to disabuse itself of the 'big brother, little brother' mentality and approach India from a place of humility.

The Labour Government Empowering Indian Workers

Hajira Piranie
Vice Chair, Labour Indians |
Trade Union Organiser



At Labour Indians we are proud of the history our movement has with trade unionism, through its focus on promoting fairness and equality. Key figures in the 20th century, including the UK's first Indian MP *Dadabhai Naoroji*, highlighted the plight of Indian workers and advocated for their rights. Today, with the fresh start in a Labour government, the focus shifts to how we can effectively advance workers' rights, grow our economy, and move away from the Tory record of working people struggling. It is often ethnic minority workers who are more vulnerable to precarious employment, and in particular BME women of which 1 in 8 are employed in insecure jobs (*TUC Research*).

Labour's *New Deal for Working People* aims to significantly enhance protections for working people. Through the proposed *Employment Rights Bill* and *Equality Bill*, here are a few of the advancements which will directly impact the British-Indian workforce:

- Make sure the minimum wage is a real living wage that people can live on
- A Ban on 'exploitative' zero-hours contracts, and right to an average-hours contract
- Clamp down on the practice of 'fire and rehire'
- The right to request flexible working from day one of employment
- Introduction of an ethnicity & disability pay gap reporting
- Making unfair dismissal protection a day one right
- Removing unnecessary restrictions on trade union activity and

ensuring industrial relations are based around good faith negotiation and bargaining.

These legislative changes will in turn impact upon the large number of migrants from India who currently make significant contributions to the British workforce and economy - particularly from within the NHS and care sector. We can expect these partnerships between the government and trade unions to positively impact the UK-India partnership, and help it grow from strength to strength.

This advancement of workers' rights, whilst creating good public services for everyone, and growing our economy – will create a stable environment for workers, empower ethnic minorities, and overall *Make Work Pay*.



UK-India AI Partnership: Pioneering a Responsible and Inclusive Digital Future

Uday Nagaraju | Former Labour
Parliamentary Candidate
| Founder, AI Policy Labs

Under Prime Minister Keir Starmer's leadership, the UK has swiftly moved to renew its partnership with India. Building on his earlier commitment to strengthen ties with India, the government is taking immediate steps to deliver on that vision. This strategic relationship addresses global challenges like economic growth, climate change, and security.

AI is a promising field of cooperation. Three weeks after the formation of the new government, the UK-India Technology Security Initiative (TSI) was announced which focuses on several areas of cooperation including AI, Quantum and Semiconductors. By fostering such ties, both nations are positioning themselves as global leaders in inclusive digital transformation, reflecting common values of fairness, innovation, and mutual benefit. For Labour, this partnership also reinforces the party's core values of social justice, internationalism, and cooperation.

With the rapid pace of AI innovation - so fast that there could be new developments by the time you finish reading this - bilateral and multilateral partnerships are crucial to advance innovation, set global standards, mitigate risks, and harness AI's potential for inclusive growth.

The TSI focuses on several key areas of AI collaboration, and three of them are particularly promising:

1. Developing Critical Technologies and Industry Applications

Both nations could collaborate on the development of cutting-edge

technologies for industries including healthcare, finance, and climate technology by sponsoring trade missions and encouraging corporate alliances. Stronger business links, more global competitiveness, and economic growth can all result from this collaboration.

2. Collaboration on AI Governance Frameworks and Multilateral Engagement

Establishing safe, responsible, and human-centric AI and bolstering AI governance might establish both nations as global leaders in AI ethics. Through organisations like the UN, GPAI, and the G20, the UK and India could influence responsible AI global standards and promote ethical development.

3. Joint Initiatives on AI Bias Detection and Mitigation

Co-developing solutions and hosting conferences on bias detection will improve the fairness and accuracy of AI systems, setting a global example for inclusive AI practices.

With India already sending the highest number of international students to the UK, and the University of Southampton opening its first campus in India, there is also a unique opportunity for a UK university to establish a world-class AI institution in India which could focus on both AI innovation and governance.

Partnerships like this offer a blueprint for the future. This partnership promises inclusive development for both nations, ensuring that technological progress benefits all segments of society. Together, the UK and India can help set global standards for the responsible use of technology, shaping a more equitable and sustainable digital future.

UK-India Collaboration Crucial to Global Climate Action

Cllr Rishi Madlani | SERA - Labour's
Environmental Campaign Executive
Member | Trustee, Labour Climate &
Environment Forum



With the recent election of the UK's Labour government, climate cooperation with India will undoubtedly be a priority, aligning with Labour's mission-led approach to make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower. The new administration is aiming to unlock significant investments in renewable energy, including doubling onshore wind capacity and removing the reliance on fossil fuels, both of which mirror India's climate ambitions and provide the potential to share skills and expertise.

Furthermore, a new Labour Government's focus on international climate justice and increased financial support for developing countries aligns closely with the need for a just transition, ensuring that as India moves away from coal, vulnerable communities are supported and quality green jobs are created. It is as important that communities are brought with us on the Net Zero journey from London to Leicester, as well as, from Dwarka to Delhi.

The UK and India share a growing partnership in addressing climate change, vital for both nations' long-term environmental and economic goals. At COP26 this partnership took a step forward, with the launch of the 'UK-India Climate Partnership; aimed at accelerating clean energy transition, improving climate resilience, and mobilising finance for sustainability projects. It is important to build on this and translate it into climate action, especially with the previous UK administration having lost its way on Climate since.

India, with its own ambitious plans to install 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-

based capacity by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, can collaborate with the UK on expertise in renewable energy, particularly offshore wind, solar power, and emerging leadership in green hydrogen. The UK's leadership in these sectors has fostered joint initiatives, including the development of India's offshore wind energy capacity and efforts to decarbonise its transport sector through investments in electric vehicles and sustainable public transportation systems.

Climate finance must be a focus of the relationship, from scaling the Indian green bond market to collaboration on Transition and Adaptation finance. The UK and India also share a commitment to advocating for more substantial multilateral climate finance through institutions like the Green Climate Fund, ensuring nations who need it receive the necessary resources to transition to clean energy.

While challenges remain, such as balancing India's rapid economic growth with its climate commitments, the two nations have an opportunity to foster innovative solutions through joint research and shared best practices. Our partnership reflects the broader need for global collaboration between nations to tackle climate change while promoting sustainable development.

Building Bridges Through Sports: The Evolving Diplomacy Between India and the UK



Cllr Sunny Brar | Former Labour
Parliamentary Candidate

Sports play a crucial role in diplomacy, serving as a bridge to foster cultural understanding, political cooperation, and international goodwill. Sports diplomacy between India and the UK has a long-standing history, particularly in cricket, but other sports like football are gaining prominence in shaping bilateral relations. Cricket has become India's national passion, fostering a shared sporting culture which is also particularly felt by British Indians. Beyond cricket, sports diplomacy serves as a powerful soft-power tool to strengthen political, cultural, and economic ties, enabling both countries to enhance their global influence and relations.

While cricket has been the dominant force in India-UK sporting relations, football is quickly becoming a crucial element of this evolving dynamic. India's burgeoning interest in football, fueled by the Indian Super League (ISL), has opened new avenues for sporting diplomacy. With a population exceeding 1.4 billion and a growing youth demographic, football is poised to become a major market in India.

On my visits to India it is evident that fans already show considerable interest in UK football teams, particularly clubs from the Premier League, with Indian fans adorning Liverpool and Manchester United tops among some of the more popular teams. This passion for UK football, combined with the ISL's success, positions India as a potential football powerhouse in the coming years. The Indian government and private entities are increasingly investing in football infrastructure, with UK clubs often involved in talent development and coaching initiatives in India. With a massive population, it is only a matter of time until a world star is found who could one day be playing in the Premier

League bringing business to the UK from 1.4 billion potential fans.

Historically, India has made significant contributions to the world of sports, introducing games like Chess, Polo, and field Hockey. Chess, believed to have originated in ancient India as “Chaturanga,” has produced world-renowned players. Polo, often associated with royalty, also has its roots in India and was popularised globally through British influence. Field hockey, another sport where India has excelled in which my own grandfather was a national level player, is part of the nation's rich sporting heritage, with India having won numerous Olympic medals in the sport.

In recent years, both countries have sought to formalise their sports diplomacy, however more work needs to be done with aims to promote youth engagement and physical activity, while also nurturing grassroots talent in both nations. UK-based athletes and coaches continue to play a role in shaping India’s sporting landscape, while Indian players and fans alike look to the UK for inspiration, particularly in football.

Ultimately, sports diplomacy between India and the UK is evolving beyond traditional cricket ties, embracing football and other emerging sports. This dynamic, along with India's rich sporting history, demonstrates the enduring potential of sports as a diplomatic tool for building mutual understanding, cooperation, and goodwill between the two nations.

A Successful UK-India Climate Partnership Will Shape the Next Decade

Hersh Thaker
Vice Chair, Labour Indians | Former
Labour Parliamentary Candidate



Labour came into power on a mandate to deliver a mission-led government that rightly placed the climate and the just energy transition at the heart of our agenda. The ambitions are clear: to become a clean energy superpower by 2030, achieve energy independence, double onshore wind, triple solar power, quadruple offshore wind, and ensure we have long-term energy storage capabilities.

India, the world's largest democracy with a rapidly growing economy, plays a pivotal role in global climate dynamics, particularly as it increasingly positions itself as the champion of the global south. Between 2010 and 2015, India overtook China as the country with the most climate-related policies. India wants to reduce carbon emissions and produce 50 per cent of electric power from renewable sources by 2030, with an ultimate target of net zero by 2070.

If Keir Starmer wants a willing international partner to lead this global effort alongside, he should look East to India.

Both nations' respectively ambitious goals are complementary and offer a unique opportunity to take a global partnership role to lead an equitable energy transition. We've seen some positive signals from the last government, which launched a host of climate and technology partnerships and investments with India at the G20 last year.

These impact investments included £10 million in the Avaana Fund, a women-led climate-tech fund for companies innovating and creating

jobs for women in clean energy, energy storage and agriculture sectors.

There was a further investment of £12 million from the UK government-supported Neev II fund to support Agri-tech start-ups and funding for Chakr Innovation Research Lab in Delhi, which is developing innovative batteries for e-vehicles which do not need charging infrastructure and are fully recyclable, providing a cleaner and safer alternative to older lithium tech.

These are examples of British investment that will supercharge technology development, ultimately benefiting consumers in the UK.

With a Labour government that is more focused on the issue and with joint ambitions on solar energy, women's empowerment, and displaying more caution towards China, the climate partnership must go further and faster.

This could mean supporting India in its quest to rival China for manufacturing solar PV modules, enabling British financial services an opportunity to enter renewable asset and infrastructure markets in India or deep technology partnerships as we tackle similar challenges, such as the need to increase grid capacity to allow more cleaner and cheaper energy to enter our respective national grids. The UK-India Technology security initiative launched by David Lammy on his trip to India July was a positive indicator of things to come.

The next decade is pivotal in the global transition towards a cleaner energy system, and India's role in this shift is crucial. Prime Minister Modi has set ambitious decarbonisation and biodiversity targets to lift millions out of poverty while advancing a sustainable energy future. This presents an opportunity for the Labour government to build a renewed relationship with India, focused on addressing the shared global climate challenge.

Can an Indo-Brit Global Health Alliance Prepare Us for the Next 'Big One'?



Dr Nikita Ved MBE FRSA | Vice Chair,
Labour Indians | Fellow, University of
Oxford

The COVID-19 pandemic gave an insight into how under-prepared our then government was to face such a health threat. This in turn shone a spotlight onto what might happen when the next epidemic or even pandemic hits. The phrase “no man is an island” could not be more apt for our island particularly when it comes to addressing global health threats. Following the damning report by Lord Darzi, we must look to innovative, timely, and cost-effective international collaborations to improve the health and well-being of our nation. By leveraging their strengths in healthcare innovation, research, and international diplomacy, the UK and India can build a robust partnership to address these challenges.

Pandemic Preparedness

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical need for global collaboration in pandemic preparedness. The UK, with its healthcare infrastructure, and India, with its vast experience in manufacturing vaccines, generics, and pharmaceuticals can create a more resilient global health system. This collaboration could include joint research initiatives, the development of early warning systems for emerging infectious diseases, and the establishment of a global supply of vaccines and essential medical supplies.

One key area for cooperation with India is in vaccine research and development. The UK’s expertise in biotechnology and India’s large-scale production capabilities, as demonstrated by the Serum Institute of India’s role in producing vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, can be further harnessed to rapidly develop and distribute vaccines during a pandemic or other health crisis.

Furthermore, both nations can collaborate on creating a global framework for equitable vaccine distribution, ensuring that low- and middle-income countries have timely access to vaccines during health emergencies.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

AMR is a growing threat that requires a coordinated global response. The UK has been a leader in raising awareness about AMR, while India faces significant challenges due to the high burden of infectious diseases and the widespread use of antibiotics. The two countries can work together to strengthen surveillance systems, promote the responsible use of antibiotics, and invest in research to develop new antimicrobial agents.

The Role of the Labour Government

The Labour Party, with its strong emphasis on social justice, equality, and international cooperation, can play a pivotal role in facilitating this partnership between the UK and India. As a political party that has historically prioritised healthcare and social welfare, Labour can advocate for policies that promote global health collaboration for the many.

Advocacy and Policy Development: The Labour Party can push for the UK government to prioritise health partnerships with India in its foreign policy agenda. By advocating for increased funding for joint health initiatives and research, Labour can help ensure that the UK is at the forefront of global health diplomacy.

Conclusion

The UK and India have the potential to forge a unique and powerful partnership in tackling global health challenges, particularly in the areas of pandemic preparedness, AMR, and non-communicable diseases. The Labour Party can play a crucial role in advancing this collaboration by advocating for supportive policies, promoting global health equity, and engaging with civil society. Through such efforts, the UK and India can not only improve health outcomes in their own countries but also contribute to a healthier, more resilient world.

Unlocking Economic Growth: Why the UK Needs a Stronger Partnership with India

Dickie McCallum
UK-India Business Council



This year alone India's economy will expand by the equivalent GDP of 12 new Liverpools.

Since 2014 its economy has almost doubled in size. By 2034 it will double again to become the 3rd largest economy. By 2044 it'll be growing by over a trillion dollars every year.

India is the home of economic growth.

It is also home to the third largest startup ecosystem in the world, arguably the world's most advanced digital public infrastructure (and 800 million internet users), the fourth largest stock market by capitalization, the sixth largest manufacturing industry, and it's a top three producer of solar energy.

Last year India became one of only 5 countries to successfully land on the moon.

Back on Earth there are brilliant examples of British businesses succeeding in India. During the past 17 years, UK India Business Council has helped 800 clients understand and benefit from UK-India trade. Firms like *T. Forrest*, a family-owned Preston pet food business, which opened its first factory in India this year to integrate India in its supply chain, helping the business back home thrive.

UK-India trade is just getting started, which is why it's important that the British Government concludes an ambitious new roadmap with India, starting with a win-win UK-India FTA.

The FTA is a foundation on which to build the future strategic partnership. India is not simply a market; it can be part of our research and development chain, technology chain, talent chain and supply chain.

The opportunity is two-way.

India is now the second largest source of Foreign Direct Investment into the UK, with 971 Indian-owned companies here, employing 118,430 people and generating a turnover of £68.09 billion. What does that look like on the ground? It means an iconic British motorcycle brand, Norton, is back on the road thanks to TVS, a bike-manufacturer from Chennai. It means the Indian energy conglomerate, Essar, operator of the UK's 2nd largest refinery at Stanlow, has announced plans to invest US\$3 billion to create the world's greenest oil refinery and catalyze the Industrial North West's hydrogen economy.

Indian firms are especially eager to partner with the UK in science and technology – which in turn helps our businesses and universities reach global markets, scale and solve global challenges. Challenges like the world faced during the Pandemic, when Oxford University, AstraZeneca, and the Serum Institute of India partnered to develop and deliver 2 billion doses of COVID vaccine to 170 countries.

Our vision is a vibrant, equal economic partnership, which creates jobs and prosperity in both countries and acts as a force for good globally.

Achieving this would deliver powerful far-reaching benefits for the UK: higher economic growth, better productivity, supply chain security, new healthcare partnerships, enhanced defence and security, and collaboration to address the climate crisis.

Fortunately, the groundwork is done. Networks, know-how and goodwill are in place. A small investment of political capital - to push India further up the Whitehall agenda - can yield a huge return over the lifetime of the next Parliament and create a bright, positive shared future.



Building Prosperity: Labour's Strategic Partnership with the British Indian Community

Krish Raval OBE
Chair, Labour Indians

As the new Labour government gets its feet under the table, forging a revitalised partnership with the British Indian community will be essential for securing the UK's future prosperity. Known for their industriousness and entrepreneurial spirit, British Indians play a crucial role in the country's socio-economic landscape. Given the challenges posed by global competition, rising right-wing populism, and post-Brexit uncertainties, Labour's close cooperation with the Indian diaspora will be key to national growth and in turn, a second term in office.

The British Indian community's economic contributions are profound. Representing over 2.5% of the UK's population, British Indians are increasingly influential, with their economic impact alone contributing an impressive 6% (at least) to the UK's GDP. Leaders in sectors such as technology, healthcare, and retail, their businesses contribute billions of pounds to the UK economy, making them essential drivers of growth. This entrepreneurial spirit was particularly crucial in the post-pandemic recovery, notably in industries like hospitality and healthcare.

The British Indian community, with its global connections, is increasingly integral to British jobs. Labour's recent £500 million investment deal with Tata Steel at Port Talbot serves as a powerful example of how partnerships with Indian-linked companies are supporting the UK's economy. This agreement focuses on transitioning to greener steel production, securing thousands of jobs, and positioning the UK as a leader in green industry.

The deal is part of a larger £1.25 billion investment aimed at making the Port Talbot site environmentally sustainable while preserving at least 2

500 jobs in South Wales alone. This is just one instance of how Labour is working to ensure industrial sustainability and growth through international cooperation.

However, the contributions of the Indian diaspora extend far beyond direct economic input. The global Indian diaspora, estimated at approximately 18 million according to the United Nations, is the largest in the world. This figure includes non-resident Indians (NRIs) and those who were born in India but now live abroad. However, when considering individuals of Indian descent across multiple generations who may no longer hold Indian nationality but still identify with their heritage, the global Indian diaspora is sometimes cited as numbering around 32 to 35 million according to the UN.

This wider diaspora, present across key regions such as the US, UK, and the Gulf, plays a crucial role in shaping global economic trends, contributing over \$100 billion in remittances in 2022 alone. British Indians, as part of this larger network, are integral to the UK's participation in global economic networks, further highlighting why a strengthened relationship with this community is crucial for Labour's growth strategy.

A key component of Labour's commitment to fostering growth is the long-awaited UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA). While the Conservatives struggled to finalise this deal, Labour is positioning itself as the party to deliver. A comprehensive UK-India FTA could potentially boost the UK's GDP by up to £6.2 billion by 2035, benefiting industries such as manufacturing, technology, and education.

Education stands out as a particularly significant growth area in UK-India relations. With India now the largest source of international students in the UK, surpassing China, the potential for further collaboration is immense. In 2022, over 161,000 study visas were granted to Indian nationals, representing a significant increase compared to 2019.

Indian students not only contribute to the UK's higher education sector but also generate substantial economic impact, collectively contributing around £28.8 billion annually to the UK economy.

Labour can capitalise on this by easing visa regulations, making it easier for Indian students to transition into the UK workforce, particularly in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), which are crucial for the UK's future in innovation.

Furthermore, Labour's focus on education could lead to more robust partnerships between UK and Indian universities, fostering academic collaboration and innovation. Joint research projects in areas like artificial intelligence, green technology, and healthcare could boost both countries' global standing while driving growth in critical sectors.

In addition to economic collaboration, mutual security interests between the UK and India are becoming increasingly important. Both nations face shared global threats, including terrorism, cyber-attacks, and instability in the Indo-Pacific region. The UK and India have made significant strides in counterterrorism cooperation through intelligence-sharing and joint exercises. Labour can build on this, promoting deeper collaboration in areas such as cyber defence and maritime security, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, where both nations have strategic interests.

The rise of right-wing populism in the UK and across Europe, driven by anti-immigration rhetoric, threatens to erode the inclusive society that has long been a hallmark of British prosperity. Labour's collaboration with the British Indian community provides a strong counter-narrative, one that celebrates diversity as a key driver of economic dynamism. By embracing the contributions of industrious communities like the British Indian diaspora, Labour can bolster social cohesion while enhancing the UK's global competitiveness.

In conclusion, the British Indian community is integral to the UK's economic success and global positioning. Through close collaboration with the 'living bridge' between the UK, India and the largest diaspora in the world, the Labour government can secure electoral support, drive economic growth, and strengthen national security. By embracing diversity, fostering international partnerships, and aligning on mutual interests, the government will be better positioned to steer the UK towards a more prosperous and secure future.



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