Concerted efforts from both India and the UK have been to strengthen the already flourishing bilateral relationship. The priorities, vision and values of the two countries are increasingly aligned and in addition, profound ties of culture, history and language gives the two countries a strong foundation upon which to further deepen their relationship.

Besides, new developments, in the form of several emerging economic and geopolitical priorities such as addressing the Covid-19 epidemic, economic and political shifts on account of Brexit, rapid rise of new technological developments and the global economic trade shifts have only made the need for a deepened UK-India ties imperative. This was well articulated during the UK foreign minister’s 3-day visit to India from December 14-17, 2020 which focused on five key areas of economic & diplomatic inalienable cooperation – trade and prosperity, defence and security, climate change, healthcare and people-to-people connectivity. Besides, agreements on the key elements of a ‘10-year UK-India Roadmap’ are also being discussed. The India- UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) is also exploring ways in which tariff barriers can be resolved and a roadmap towards a favourable enhanced trade could be developed.

Interestingly, technology may be able to provide a comprehensive and cohesive conduit that the two countries are looking for in the quest to enhance partnerships. This may provide new avenues for collaboration, from building cybersecurity resilience to joint research and collaboration on emerging technology. Opportunities for greater collaboration in the domain of science and technology are also only likely amid the growing era of AI revolution.

As part of the wider UK- Global AI Partnership (UGAP) Programme of the AI Policy Labs, this discussion is conceptualised in partnership with the Indo-British All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) to act as an enabler of achieving superior synchronisation of new technological developments in the two countries to impel greater openness to trade and opportunities, inordinate sharing of expertise and investments for innovation leading to strengthened partnerships. With the All-Party Parliamentary Group, we are bringing together the parliamentarians and the policy makers, business leaders, investors, academia and the science base from universities, civil society interest groups.

Programme Chair

• Virendra Sharma, Chair Indo-British APPG

Leader & Moderator of Roundtable Discussions:

• Uday Nagaraju, Founder & Director, AI Policy Labs
Roundtable Discussion

AI Partnership for inclusive development and strengthening bilateral relations

11 February 2021 | 2.00-3.30pm London | Online

Digital change is the new constant. It is rapid, ubiquitous and unprecedented. Increasingly, emerging technologies and global megatrends are machinating to disrupt both business and society. Digital revolution has no boundaries or borders and impacts all alike. It is believed that most of the developmental needs of economies can be met, and met faster with the advent of technologies. Studies have shown that Artificial Intelligence could achieve at least 134 targets (79%) of all SDGs, usually through technological improvements, which could overcome some of the current limitations.

Policy makers and CEOs globally are now making significant changes in their thinking, and how they use technology to assess and deliver on wider stakeholder expectations. In 2015, UK-India announced Tech Partnership to pair businesses, universities and others from different regions in the UK with states in India. It is estimated that this Partnership could contribute to an increase of thousands of tech jobs in the UK in the coming years, and the Government believes this initiative could give the UK economy a significant boost.

This Roundtable Conference is organised in a conversational format between the All Party Parliamentary Group Members & our Expert Panel to
  a. understand and map the landscape of this disruption globally, in the UK and in India
  b. scan the horizon of potential opportunities for UK-India collaborative engagements to enhance strategic agility
  c. and to prepare business in both the nations to make the most of this disruptive change.

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