

2. India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

The Prime Ministers of India and the UK have reaffirmed the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the recent official UK PM visit to India, announcing significant progress across multiple sectors.

Key Outcomes of the India-UK 2025 Engagement

1. Economic and Trade Cooperation

CETA Strengthening – The ongoing negotiations on the *Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)* between India and the United Kingdom were reinforced, aiming to –

1. Boost market access for goods and services on both sides.
2. Reduce tariff barriers in key sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and information technology.
3. Promote mutual recognition of standards, facilitating smoother trade and compliance.
4. Generate new employment opportunities through enhanced bilateral trade and investment flows.

2. Investment Commitments –

1. A total of 64 Indian investment projects were announced, collectively worth £1.3 billion.
2. These projects are expected to create over 6,900 jobs in the UK across sectors like engineering, digital technology, life sciences, and creative industries.
3. The initiative signifies India's growing role as the second-largest investor in the UK, particularly in the post-Brexit economic landscape.

2. Climate, Energy, and Sustainability

Advanced R&D Collaboration – Both nations agreed to set up joint research and innovation centres focusing on – Artificial Intelligence (AI) for climate modelling and sustainability applications. Climate change mitigation technologies, including carbon capture, energy efficiency, and renewable storage solutions.

Critical Minerals Cooperation – Launch of Phase 2 of the UK-India Critical Minerals Supply Chain Observatory to improve resilience and traceability in global supply chains. A new dedicated campus at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad will support research, processing, and workforce training in critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements, vital for green technologies.

Clean Energy Transition – Agreement to deepen collaboration in offshore wind energy, with focus on project design, turbine manufacturing, and coastal infrastructure. Joint participation through the Global Clean Power Alliance (GCPA) to expand renewable power networks across Asia and Africa. Launch of the India-UK Climate Finance Initiative, designed to mobilize private capital for clean energy and climate adaptation projects, especially in developing countries.

Defence and Security Cooperation

Maritime Security and Indo-Pacific Strategy – Strengthened cooperation in maritime domain awareness, anti-piracy operations, and disaster response in the Indo-Pacific region. Establishment of a Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (RMSCE) under India's *Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)* to enhance coordination and information sharing. This complements the UK's Indo-Pacific 'Tilt' strategy, reinforcing both countries' commitment to a free, open, and rules-based maritime order.

Defence Technology and Co-Production – Government-to-Government (G2G) agreement for the supply of Lightweight Multirole Missile systems, strengthening India's air defence capabilities. Exploration of joint research and co-production in advanced defence technologies such as radar systems, electronic warfare, and drone surveillance platforms.

Education, Culture, and People-to-People Ties

Transnational Education Expansion – Approval granted for Queen's University Belfast and Coventry University to open international branch campuses in GIFT City, Gujarat. These campuses aim to promote cross-border education, skill development, and research collaborations in fields like fintech, AI, and sustainability. The move aligns with India's *National Education Policy (NEP) 2020* vision for

internationalization of higher education.

Cultural Exchange and Mobility – Strengthened frameworks for academic mobility, including scholarships, fellowships, and student exchange programs. Promotion of joint cultural festivals and digital heritage projects under the UK–India Cultural Exchange Program, fostering greater understanding and innovation.

Technological and Industrial Cooperation

Expansion of the Technology Security Initiative (TSI) – The TSI framework was broadened to ensure **secure technology partnerships** in strategic sectors such as semiconductors, cybersecurity, AI governance, and data standards.

New Joint Institutions Launched –

India–UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre – to promote smart infrastructure and 5G-enabled connectivity.

UK–India Critical Minerals Supply Chain Observatory – to map, monitor, and secure strategic mineral supplies.

UK–India Critical Minerals Processing and Downstream Collaboration Guild – to boost value-added processing and industrial-scale collaboration in green technologies.

Overall Significance

1. Strategic Depth and Global Positioning – The 2025 visit signifies deepened strategic convergence between India and the UK, marking India as a core pillar of the UK's post-Brexit foreign and economic policy. It extends the India–UK Vision 2035, adding new cooperation pillars in –

1. Critical minerals and supply chain resilience,
2. Defence co-production,
3. Digital and clean economy integration.

2. Indo-Pacific and Global Governance Synergy – Aligns both nations' Indo-Pacific strategies to ensure regional peace, freedom of navigation, and economic security. Strengthens coordination in multilateral forums such as the G20, Commonwealth, and UNFCCC, particularly on climate finance and sustainable development.

3. Economic and Technological Resilience – Promotes inclusive growth, innovation-led trade, and joint leadership in emerging technologies and green industries. Reinforces both countries' commitment to building secure, diversified, and ethical global supply chains—a crucial step in reducing dependency on single-nation sources, especially China.

Source – https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-welcomes-uk-prime-minister-h-e-keir-starmer-on-his-first-official-visit-to-india/