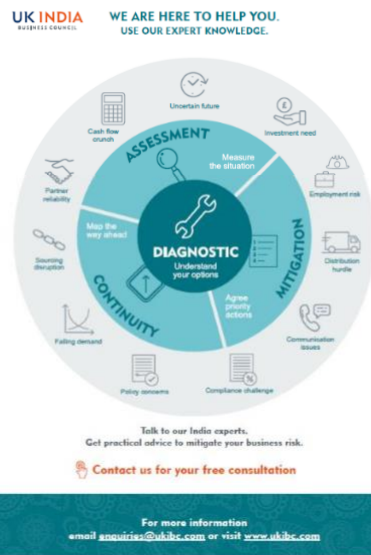


UK India Business Council Newsletter - April

We are delighted to share our April highlights which include our government engagement, events, and our latest advocacy wins. We also present our new business offering as part of our work to support businesses in the face of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Business Support: New opportunities to continue business as usual

The UKIBC is pleased to introduce our new business support offering which aims to help you whether you are already invested in India, have initiated investment, or simply want to learn more about the opportunities available.



It is not just those trading and invested in India that have been engaging with us at UKIBC at this time. Those unfamiliar with India are thinking outside of the box, to re-engineer and safeguard their business too. Perhaps this is no surprise. COVID-19 is a leveller: revenue risk, supply chain disruption, employment concerns, and, therefore, overall financial exposure come to mind as common denominator problems.

Learn [here](#) how we can help you mitigate the risks to your business.



Government Engagement



Government Submissions on Higher Education

To develop forward moving action within essential sectors in relation to the COVID-19 situation and the ongoing lock-down in the States, UKIBC colleagues have held online meetings with various government departments including:

- Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), **Govt of Maharashtra**
- Commerce and Industries Dept, **Govt of Telangana**
- Resident Commissioner, **Govt Of Gujarat**
- Invest Punjab, **Govt Of Punjab**
- Industries and Commerce Dept, **Govt Of Karnataka**



Roundtable with the High Commissioner of India

On 28th April, UKIBC facilitated a virtual discussion chaired by UKIBC CEO Richard Heald and led by the **High Commissioner of India**, Mrs. Ruchi Ghanashyam and the **Minister (Economic)**, Shri Manish Singh. The High Commissioner answered members' questions and stressed the Indian Government's commitment to support companies and organisations during this time. Read the summary in full [here](#).



CBI | THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY

UK INDIA
BUSINESS COUNCIL

UKIBC Working with UK Business Organisations

The **UKIBC**, together with **CBI** and **BBG Delhi**, sent a letter to the **DPIIT** as a collective voice for British industry in India.

In it, we outlined three key recommendations:

On 15th April, we wrote to the UK **Home Office** with recommendations on student visas and for greater clarification on the new Graduate Immigration Route. [Read more](#).

On 20th April, we wrote to the **Ministry of Human Resource Development** in India to outline the valuable support that UK universities can offer to India's higher education sector in online learning. [Read more](#).

UK INDIA
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TVS Motor Company Acquisition of Norton

UKIBC Strategic Partner **TVS Motor Company** completed the acquisition of Britain's most iconic sporting motorcycle, Norton Motors, with support from UKIBC. Read the press release, including comments from Minister for Investment, Gerry Grimstone, in full [here](#).



INVEST INDIA
NATIONAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION & FACILITATION AGENCY

Food and Drink Members Meet with Invest India

On 20th April, we facilitated a discussion with **Invest India** and our **Food and Drink Sector Advocacy Members**, Diageo, Pernod Ricard, and ISWAI, to review the impact of the recent lockdown extension on the spirits sector. Read [more](#).

1. A fiscal stimulus package to support companies and workers
2. Make all payments to suppliers on an immediate basis
3. Increase the FDI cap

Read our [statement](#) for more.



USR Implementation to Dialogue Webinar

Dr. Daniel Rycroft, Chair of the India Dialogue at the **University of East Anglia** (UEA) and Professor Prabhakar Rao, Director of ICEIE at the **University of Hyderabad** (UoH), led a virtual discussion on **University Social Responsibility** (USR). The webinar offered the perfect platform to officially launch the recently published USR Guidebook, [University Social Responsibility From Dialogue to Implementation](#), co-authored by the UEA, UoH, University of Jadavpur and supported by the UKIBC. Read the summary in full and view the recording [here](#).



The Impact of COVID-19 on the Indian Economy Webinar

UKIBC welcomed Mr. Dilip Chenoy of **FICCI**, Dr. Ajit Ranade of **Aditya Birla Group**, and Jidesh Kumar from **King Stubb & Kasiva** for an informative webinar discussing 'The Impact of COVID-19 on the Indian Economy.' Learn more about the key inputs from each speaker and to view the webinar recording [here](#).

Advocacy Wins

Lifting restrictions for essential services under Lockdown

On behalf of members, the UKIBC submitted a series of detailed recommendations to the Government of India and State Governments to ensure smooth operations during the Covid-19 lockdown, focusing on "essential" sectors – financial services, telecommunications, and oil and gas. 70% of the recommendations were implemented, and we continue to work on the others. The areas covered the resumption of certain manufacturing and engineering activities, re-starting courier services, extension of licenses and permits, and the relaxation on requirements of board meetings. The UKIBC are delighted to support our members and are continuing our engagement with Governments across India.

Read more, including details of the resolved issues thus far, [here](#).

Socio-Economic Impact Campaign

UKIBC members have been playing a major role in the response to COVID-19, including provision of medical equipment and other crucial supplies, donations, shelter, and more.

Read about some of those and how COVID-19 could widen companies' positive socio-economic impact in the long run, from our SEI lead, Kealan Finnegan, in his latest blog '[Socio-economic impact: COVID-19 is bringing out the best in business.](#)'

Upcoming Events

Our approach over the coming months will be to hold all our events digitally. Our interactive format will ensure that our members retain the opportunity to ask questions and interact with our specialist speakers.

When the Governments advise that it is safe to do so, we will resume face-to-face roundtables and seminars, as we know how much our members value the opportunity to meet each other and our expert guests.

- 4 May - Virtual Roundtable with DPIIT and Invest India
- [12 May - The Importance of Data - Encouraging Innovation](#)
- 14 May - In Conversation with Richard Heald and Mr. Banerjee, Director General at CII
- May - Cyber Threats During Uncertainty
- May - Impact of COVID-19 on Manufacturing Supply Chains
- May - What Banks are Doing to Support Businesses During COVID-19
- 3 June - Employability and Student Mobility
- 16 June - Employment Law

We will send further information and invites to all May events as we confirm dates.

Blog Series: Changing Business Practices

Our latest blog series examines how COVID-19 is affecting certain sectors now and the potential long-term implications in the future:

[Digital Infrastructure](#) written by Meghna Misra-Elder (Part I & II)

[India's BPO Sector](#) written by Chris Heyes

[University Social Responsibility](#) written by Tara Panjwani

[Socio-Economic Practices](#) written by Kealan Finnegan

More blogs:

[UK India Ties Exemplified by Paracetamol Trade](#) written by Meghna Misra-Elder

[India Approves Electronics Manufacturing Schemes](#) written by Prasenjit Dhar

Member News

Maier + Vidorno held a successful Sales Networking Meet to bring together cohorts selling into India. UKIBC Director Richard McCallum was one of several excellent speakers. More details [here](#).

A Warm Welcome to Our New Launchpad Representatives

- Shilpi Prasad - Durham University
- Savi Aggarwal - Durham University
- Kritika Gupta - Henley Business School
- Dilpreet Kaur - Swansea University
- Rachita Gaglani - The University of Surrey

If you are interested in launchpad, get in touch at enquiries@ukibc.com.

For more news updates and blogs:

[UKIBC Resources: Explore our latest webinars and videos](#)

[UKIBC Blogs: Read insights and views from the team](#)



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