



India-UK Virtual Summit

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Ministers of **India and the United Kingdom (UK)** held a bilateral virtual summit.

- India thanked the UK for the prompt medical assistance provided by it in the wake of the **severe [second wave of Covid-19](#)** in India.



Key Points

- **Adopted 'Roadmap 2030':**

- It will **elevate bilateral ties to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership"**.
- It will provide a **framework for UK-India relations** across health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defence.
 - This will expand the UK-India health partnership to **enhance global health security and [pandemic resilience](#)**.
 - This includes **firming up international supply chains to ensure critical medicines, vaccines and other medical products** reach those who need them most.
 - Agreed to **expand the existing [UK-India vaccines partnership](#)**.

- **Launched Enhanced Trade Partnership:**

- It envisages facilitating market access in specific sectors. It will see Britain open up its fisheries sector to more Indian players, facilitate more opportunities for nurses, recognise Indian seafarers' certificates and enter into a joint dialogue on a social security agreement.
- In return, India lifted restrictions to enable British fruit producers to export their produce to the country and improved access for medical devices.
- They will also work towards reciprocal opening up of legal services.
- Announced their intent to negotiate a comprehensive [Free Trade Agreement \(FTA\)](#), including consideration of an interim trade agreement to deliver early gains.
- Set an ambitious target of more than doubling bilateral trade by 2030.
- **Announcement of a new India-UK 'Global Innovation Partnership':**
 - The UK is India's second largest partner in research and innovation collaborations.
 - The new partnership aims to support the transfer of inclusive Indian innovations to select developing countries, starting with Africa.
- **Security & Defence:**
 - **Cooperation on Maritime Domain Awareness:**
 - This includes new agreements on maritime information sharing, an invitation to the UK to join [India's Information Fusion Centre in Gurgaon](#) and an ambitious exercise programme which includes joint trilateral exercises.
 - **UK's Carrier Strike Group:**
 - The UK's Carrier Strike Group will visit India later this year to boost ties with Indian navies and air forces, undertaking joint training exercises to enable future cooperation on operations in the Western Indian Ocean ([UK's Indo-Pacific Tilt](#)).
 - **Light Combat Aircraft Mark 2:**
 - To support India's indigenous development of the [Light Combat Aircraft Mark 2](#).
 - **Potential Collaborations:**
 - Discussed the potential for further industrial collaboration in areas such as maritime propulsion, space and cyber, marking the start of a promising new era of UK-India research, capability and industrial collaboration on Indian combat air and beyond.
- **Migration:**
 - Enhance their migration relationship, to make it easier for British and Indian nationals to live and work in each other's countries.
 - Welcomed the signing of the India-UK Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP) that is aimed at reducing illegal immigration into the UK.
 - The issue of illegal immigration had been a sticking point between both sides for years. However it is understood that MMP will help genuine immigrants and students and will reduce immigration-related crimes.
- **Climate Change:**
 - Agreed to work together to ensure an ambitious outcome at [Conference of the Parties \(COP\) 26](#) and expand the UK-India partnership on tackling [climate change](#), including by accelerating the development of clean energy and transport and new technology, protecting nature and biodiversity and helping developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change.

Bilateral Military Exercises

- Air Force Exercise ['Indradhanush'](#).

- Navy Exercise Konkan.
- Army Exercise [‘Ajeya Warrior’](#)

Way Forward

- India will elevate to a 21st century superpower. It will soon be ‘one of the biggest influences on the world’. It is looking for new partners in the global race. This **represents a great opportunity for the UK**. The **UK has much to offer India in education, research, civil society and the creative sector**.
- Further, India’s skilled labour, technological assistance and the vibrant market will open a lot of avenues for Britain which has recently parted ways with the European Union.

[Source: IE](#)

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