

UK – Karnataka relationship

Snapshot | Karnataka - UK relationship

UK has been a key Global Innovation Alliance partner for Karnataka with AR/VR, advanced materials, Fintech and AI being few of the areas of focus.

Focus sub sectors	1. Fintech 2. Creative tech 3. Regulatory Sandbox 4. AI
Focus regions	1. London 2. Manchester

Relationship so far

- **UK-India Tech Hub** UK India Tech Hub initiative was announced with the following agenda:
 - Use digital skills for inclusive and sustainable economic growth
 - Create jobs
 - Promote cross-border technology transfer in early stage businesses
- **October 2019:** Hon'ble DCM Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan met with British Deputy High Commissioner Jeremy Pilmore- Bedford. Four areas for collaboration were identified: Fintech, AI, Waste management and Traffic congestion
- **December 2019: Go Global Program** - This programme was launched in Bengaluru in October 2019 to give Indian tech entrepreneurs focused on the development of tech for good the opportunity to hone their skills and build connections in the UK. Four India startups have been selected as finalists for the programme and will be undertaking a visit to the UK for workshops, market access and other skilling programs.
- **February 2020: Regulatory Sandbox – UK - first country in the world** to set up regulatory sandboxes – first round of discussions conducted with the DHC team to collaborate in this area.
- **February 2020: Innovation Challenge Fund** - Research grant to fund innovative projects in AI/Data Science that address social challenges in India was launched in February 2020.
 - £2 million fund was launched for Karnataka startups doing R&D in AI/DS. Startups will have to apply for the fund as consortia along with and R&D partners to avail a grant of upto £ 500,000. As of April 2020, this project has been put on hold due to the COVI 19 pandemic. The project has been relaunched during October 2020 for startups to apply for.
- **September 2021:** Fintech program – Under the leadership of Deputy High Commissioner Jeremy Pilmore- Bedford, a curated and customized Fintech program was launched specifically for collaboration with Government of Karnataka.

- Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Government of United Kingdom and GoK have been collaborating for a Fintech programme to support Karnataka stakeholders in strengthening the Fintech Ecosystem in the State. In this light, a Fintech Capability building workshop was conducted on 7 December 2021 with several departments of GoK on the below areas:
 - Development of Fintech Policy
 - Ecosystem development workshops
 - Build the capacity of policy makers and start-ups

Participation during Bengaluru Technology Summit

- **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2019** - British High Commissioner Dominic Asquith attended BTS 2019 Inaugural. A GIA Session hosted by UK titled “Tech for Good” on Day 1
- **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020** - UK participated in a large way for the Summit 2020 edition.
 - Some of the high-level delegates from UK included: Lord Tariq Ahmad, Minister for South Asia and the Commonwealth at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Mr. Oliver Dowden, Secretary of State, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, UK and Acting British High Commissioner Jan Thompson.
 - UK conducted a session on “*UK: Tech’s role in Green Recovery and a Sustainable Future*”
- **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2021** - The virtual delegation from UK was led by British Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission, UK and the team conducted a session titled *UK and India - Partners in innovation*



Figure 1: UK GIA Session – Remarks by Mr. Nicholas Fernando, Digital Catapult UK – BTS 2021



Figure 2: UK GIA Session – Remarks by – Panel discussion – BTS 2021



Figure 3: UK GIA Session – Remarks by Mr. Jeremy Pilmore Bedford – BTS 2021



Figure 4: Fintech Capability building workshop – December 2021