

UK and India sign ground-breaking partnership migration deal

The Governments of the UK and India have signed a new landmark migration agreement, which will see both countries benefit from enhanced arrangements on migration issues.

Home Secretary Priti Patel and India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar today (Tuesday 4 May) signed the [Migration and Mobility Partnership agreement](#), aimed at supporting people to live and work in both countries while addressing long standing problems of illegal migration from India to the UK.

The historic agreement delivers on the UK Government's fair but firm New Plan for Immigration – attracting the best and brightest and supporting people coming to the UK through legal routes, while stopping the abuse of the system and speeding up the removal of those who have no right to be in the UK.

The agreement will enhance and accelerate the processes to return Indian nationals with no legal right to stay in the UK and vice versa, and ensure greater co-operation around organised immigration crime.

In a first of its kind between the two countries, both governments have agreed enhanced mobility provisions for young professional Indian and British citizens which will allow people to live and work in the two countries for up to two years.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

I am committed to delivering for the British public a fair but firm New Plan for Immigration that will attract the best and brightest talent to UK through our new points-based immigration system, whilst clamping down on those who are abusing the system. This ground-breaking new agreement with India is an important milestone in delivering on this pledge.

This landmark agreement with our close partners in the Government of India will provide new opportunities to thousands of young people in the UK and India seeking to live, work and experience each other's cultures. This agreement will also ensure that the British Government can remove those with no right to be in UK more easily and crackdown on those abusing our system.

The deal builds on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's previous pledge to deliver a quantum leap in the UK's bilateral relationship with India.

On illegal migration, the Partnership will ensure swifter and more efficient returns by accelerating timescales for removals, by committing appropriate

resources to facilitate returns, and steps to make it easier for Indian nationals to be identified and returned.

Both governments are determined to tackle a wide range of immigration and homeland security issues and this agreement commits both countries to regular dialogue between the two governments in this area for the first time.

The new bespoke route for young professionals will allow 18-30-year-olds to work and live in the other country for up to 24 months. This professional and cultural exchange programme will work similarly to current Youth Mobility Schemes, with India being the first visa national country to benefit from this.

Professional Indian nationals feature strongly in the UK's new points-based immigration system, which encourages the best and brightest to come to the UK based on their skills and talent rather than where they are from.

According to the most recent statistics, more than 53,000 students from India came to the UK to study last year, up 42% on the previous year. Nearly a quarter of all international students in the UK are from India.

[Foreign Secretary meeting with Luigi Di Maio, Italian Foreign Minister, 4 May](#)

Press release

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab met Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio during the G7 Foreign and Development Ministerial Meeting.



A Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office spokesperson said:

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab met Italian Foreign Minister Luigi

Di Maio today at Lancaster House in London, as part of the G7 Foreign & Development Ministerial Meeting.

They noted their desire to continue to work particularly closely in this important year, given the UK and Italian respective presidencies of the G7 and G20 and the joint hosting of COP26.

They agreed high level ambitions for the COP26 climate change conference in Glasgow in November, especially with regards to climate finance.

The ministers also discussed cooperation on a range of bilateral and global issues including the importance of the Global Coalition against Daesh in tackling the threat of terrorism from North Africa and the Sahel and the ongoing UN talks to resolve the Cyprus issue.

The ministers noted the progress made towards a UK-Italy Bilateral Cooperation Agreement, and reiterated their desire to build on our Year of Presidencies by signing before the end of the year.

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[MHRA announces appointment of Chief Safety Officer](#)

Press release

Dr Alison Cave joins the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) as Chief Safety Officer



Today (4 May 2021) the MHRA announced the appointment of Dr Alison Cave as its new Chief Safety Officer. As a member of the Executive Committee, Alison

will lead on safety and vigilance functions and become a Board Director of the Agency.

Alison is a pharmacologist with a PhD in biochemistry. Her long career includes significant academic and regulatory experience, the latter initially at the Medicines Control Agency and then in senior roles within the Vigilance and Risk Management of Medicine Group at the MHRA and the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Most recently she was an Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund Director at UK Research and Innovation.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Alison Cave to the team. This is a key appointment for the agency which signals our commitment to ensuring patient voice is at the heart of everything we do.

Alison's wealth of academic knowledge, experience of working in partnership with industry and regulatory expertise will inform and strengthen our safety and vigilance functions and makes her the ideal champion for the patient voice.

I am tremendously excited to be joining the MHRA as Chief Safety Officer at a time when a rapidly changing scientific, technological and analytical landscape is bringing us new opportunities to evolve the evidence generation around the benefits and risks of medicines and devices.

I look forward to working with colleagues at MHRA to continue to improve our medicines and devices safety surveillance in the UK and in facilitating the close partnerships with patients and healthcare professionals envisaged by the Cumberlege report.

Alison will take up her post on 19 July 2021.

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[**Foreign Secretary meeting with Marc Garneau, Canadian Minister for Foreign**](#)

Affairs, 4 May

Press release

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab met Canadian Minister for Foreign Affairs Marc Garneau during the G7 Foreign and Development Ministerial Meeting.



A Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office spokesperson said:

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab met Canadian Minister for Foreign Affairs Marc Garneau today.

During the meeting the Foreign Secretary reaffirmed our close co-operation with Canada as a force for good in the world, and discussed UK-Canada collaboration on girls' education, media freedom, and arbitrary detention.

Both the Foreign Secretary and Foreign Minister agreed to work closely together on ambitious COP26 and G7 priorities. They also discussed the international Covid-19 response, and deepening UK-Canadian partnership on security and trade.

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[UK Ambassador launches construction of the Hargeisa bypass](#)

World news story

Ambassador Kate Foster, in her first visit to Somaliland, launches construction of the Hargeisa bypass.



The British Ambassador, Kate Foster, visited Hargeisa this week to reaffirm the strength of the UK's partnership with Somaliland including in the trade and development sector.

In her first visit to Somaliland since her appointment in February, Ms. Foster joined President Muse Bihi in launching the main construction phase of the 22.5 km Hargeisa bypass. The UK-supported bypass will reduce the time and cost of transporting goods between Berbera Port and landlocked Ethiopia by addressing a strategic chokepoint on the Berbera corridor.

In the construction phase, particular attention will be paid to climate proofing, ensuring the road is built to last. Protection of local heritage is also a key consideration, recognising the road's proximity to the iconic Nasa Hablood hills – the symbol of Hargeisa city.

The corridor is already facilitating the delivery of much-needed humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities in the wider region. The World Food Programme uses Berbera to bring 65% of its food aid into Ethiopia. With Ethiopia's trade volumes projected to continue expanding, Berbera also represents an alternative for increasing trade and prosperity in the Horn of Africa.

The continued development of the Berbera corridor will ensure that ordinary people from across Somaliland will benefit from inclusive economic development. Future UK support will focus on more efficient cross border trade between Somaliland and Ethiopia including through the use of one-stop border posts, cargo tracking systems and efficient regulation at the border.

At the launch event, Somaliland President, Muse Bihi, said:

I would like to thank the UK and partners for their role in investing in Somaliland's infrastructure to boost the economy, which will help in service delivery as well as create employment.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Kate Foster said:

We are proud to support the Hargeisa bypass, which is a crucial part of the Berbera corridor. Once this 240 km project – in coordination with our Abu Dhabi and European partners – is completed late next year, it will improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of people by creating jobs, unlocking the region's economic potential and ease the delivery of humanitarian supplies.

At a time of huge challenges for Somaliland, including tackling COVID-19, this is a demonstration of the UK's commitment to the people of Somaliland.

Eugene Torero, Director of Trade Policy at TradeMark East Africa, said:

We are grateful for the continued support by United Kingdom and the fruitful partnership with the Somaliland government which has ensured steady progress in the construction of this important road amidst many challenges.

TMEA is committed to continue implementing various initiatives, with the government, that will support Somaliland's agenda in increasing trade not only within its borders but also with its neighbours consequently creating jobs and helping reduce poverty.

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