

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE INDIA-UK
JOINT ECONOMIC AND TRADE COMMITTEE
DELHI, ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2013(draft)**

1. The ninth meeting of the UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) took place in New Delhi on Monday December 9 , 2013. The Indian delegation side was led by Shri Anand Sharma, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry and UK side by the Rt. Hon. Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. The ministers held a bilateral meeting before the plenary session and discussed issues of mutual concern and interest.

2. The India UK JETCO was established on 13thJanuary, 2005 to further develop a strategic economic relationship and business-led vehicles to enhance bilateral trade and investment. The discussions in the JETCO are based on two pillars: market access issues and enhancing business to business relationships.

3. As agreed during the last JETCO held in London, Logistics working group was consolidated with Education and Skills Working Group. As such, three Working Groups namely Education and Skill, Advance Manufacturing & Engineering and Innovation held their discussions under the aegis of JETCO. Due to lack of progress, both sides agreed to exclude the text on British India Infrastructure Group (BIIG) in the minutes.

4. The conclusions of these Joint Working Group sessions were presented in the plenary session of the JETCO by the group representatives. While both Ministers took note of these conclusions, they also appreciated the valuable inputs provided by the members of these working groups comprising of both

government and business representatives. They underlined that continued healthy engagement by businesses was vital for a strong foundation for enhancing bilateral economic cooperation despite challenges posed by the global economic situation. The strong underlying theme in all three areas of discussion in the working group sessions was creating of business opportunities and facilitation of investment flows.

Education and Skills Working Group

The group noted that number of milestones achieved and joint initiatives undertaken since last JETCO vindicated the approach of Skill Group. The group launched its report on India UK partnership on Skills which highlighted the progress held so far and way ahead. In view of ever evolving relations of India and UK, both sides felt need of greater collaboration in Sector Skills Councils, innovative models of career counselling & mentoring, more participation of MSMEs and decided to realign the focus of the existing framework to Development of Community Colleges, Industry, integrating skills development programmes in PPP projects such as economic corridors in India, achieving standards equilibrium between two sides on Sector Skills Councils, optimizing the CSR opportunity window for the Skills Development.

Innovation Working Group

The Innovation working group was established in the year 2010 with a view to facilitate partnerships among the business communities to develop and deploy innovation technology solutions of top priorities in both the countries. Both sides agreed that Cleantech Energy Systems and Affordable Healthcare were two core areas wherein both Government would require to fund the industries and institutions to enable them to jointly develop innovative products and services. The Group, with a view to focus on the theme of Affordable and

Accessible Healthcare, decided to set up following four Sub-groups which would define the objectives, deliverables and timeliness for themselves:

- Accessible Healthcare enabled by Primary/Secondary Healthcare Delivery Solutions.
- Affordable Diagnostics and Health Monitoring Devices.
- Data Driven Innovation and Improvement – focusing on development of clinical data models, healthcare models to support analytics, informatics and medical research.
- Cross Agenda (to facilitate progress of the above 3 Nos Groups and identify/address common issues)

If an Indian and UK company come together to jointly develop a product or technology in any of the above areas, they can apply for funding support under the TSB-GITA 'Call for Proposals' which is currently open. Detailed information about the funding programme is available at <http://gita.org.in/call-for-proposal.html>

It was also decided that Sub-Groups would update the cross agenda group on a quarterly basis.

Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Working Group

Both sides acknowledged the actions taken by the Indian and UK Governments to boost their respective manufacturing sectors since the last JETCO and observed that the Working Group would supplement this by working to identify joint manufacturing projects in the context of National Manufacturing Policy and the UK Foresight Manufacturing Report. It was also agreed that the Working Group would seek to facilitate the setting up of MSME Tool Rooms in India to provide manufacturing skill training through apprenticeship and vocational training programmes along with setting up a Centre of Excellence focusing on aerospace and automotive supply chain

development. On R&D it was agreed that the group would focus on developing technology collaborations in clean and green technologies under the UK Bilateral cooperation agreement and Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA). The working group would also explore the possibility of joint project on Additive Manufacturing (3D printing).

A booklet on India UK partnership on Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering was released. The report highlighted the activities and key successes delivered by the group in 2012-13

5. Both sides agreed to a regular and ongoing dialogue to facilitate implementation of the outcomes of JETCO and to review its progress. The senior officials meeting would take place in London on date mutually convenient to both sides.

6. It was agreed that the next meeting of the JETCO would take place in London next year.