

India and Scotland

A story of success

March 2025



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Introductory message

I am delighted to present the first edition of ‘India and Scotland: A story of success’, a report which captures the emerging opportunities and immense possibilities for mutually-beneficial collaboration. This report also identifies multifaceted dimensions of the India-Scotland relationship, highlighting opportunities for partnership across key sectors and offering insights into how stakeholders in India and Scotland can work together even more successfully.

India, with its vast markets and diverse capabilities, plays a significant role in the global economy, while Scotland’s leadership in research and technology provides a strong foundation for a meaningful partnership.

Trade remains a cornerstone of the India-Scotland partnership. In 2023, India’s exports to Scotland were valued at GBP 489.06 million, while imports from Scotland to India reached GBP 534.18 million. These figures reflect the complementarities of the two economies and underline the potential for further growth in bilateral trade. In this context, Indian investors are also increasingly considering opportunities to deploy capital in Scotland’s leisure, distilleries and knowledge-economy sectors, creating jobs and developing new avenues for our partnership. In this context, the conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement between India and the UK, and increased aviation connectivity, will further stimulate the economic and trade partnership.

Looking ahead, based on existing strategic policies and supportive frameworks, India and Scotland are today well-positioned to unlock growth opportunities across diverse industries, including life-sciences, education, gaming and animation, renewable energy, technology, research, and innovation.

A key element of this collaboration is the engaged and supportive diaspora connecting India with Scotland. The community plays an vital role in deepening cross-border exchanges and facilitating pathways for businesses to expand and thrive.

I am confident that the India-Scotland relationship will continue to witness significant growth and prosperity in the years to come. Our Consulate General in Edinburgh and the team in London are fully committed to supporting a dynamic and substantive partnership for our mutual benefit.

Vikram Doraiswami

High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom

Foreword

I am pleased to present India and Scotland: A Story of Success, a reflection of the deepening economic ties and shared aspirations between our two sides. India's dynamic market and Scotland's strengths in innovation and research create a strong foundation for collaboration across diverse sectors.

Trade and investment continue to drive this partnership, with growing interest from Indian businesses in Scotland's key industries, from renewable energy, IT and life sciences. The Indian diaspora also plays an essential role in strengthening these connections, fostering cultural and commercial exchanges.

As we look ahead, I am confident that India and Scotland will continue to explore new avenues of growth, building a partnership that is both dynamic and future oriented. The Consulate General of India in Edinburgh remains committed to support this journey.

Siddharth Malik

IFS

Consul General of India in Edinburgh

Preface

The India and Scotland: A Story of Success report showcases the collaborative efforts of the Consulate General of India in Edinburgh, Grant Thornton and FICCI. This report provides in-depth insights into the growing relationship between India and Scotland, exploring opportunities for collaboration across various sectors where cross-border synergies are poised to create significant economic impact.

The report includes detailed sections on key sectors such as Fintech, Gaming and Animation, Food and Beverage, Renewable Energy, Health-tech, Life Sciences, Technology and Innovation, and Education and Skill Development. The market triggers for growth, opportunities for cross-border collaboration, top companies, and regional mapping of opportunities find place within this report.

The regional approach adopted to highlight specific opportunities between Indian states and Scottish sectors is also elucidated such that both sides find the right locations to explore future partnerships. Additionally, the crucial role of government support and engagement, outlining regulatory frameworks to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and improving the ease of doing business between the two sides is also highlighted along with case studies of successful initiatives that demonstrate the potential for further government-business collaboration along the India-Scotland corridor and which can open doors for new cross-border business ventures.

We trust that the findings and recommendations of this report will help drive stronger partnership and sustainable growth between India and Scotland and that it would serve as a valuable resource for both businesses and policymakers alike.

We are grateful to the Consulate General of India in Edinburgh for taking this initiative to bring out this report and look forward to continuing this journey of collaboration and progress.

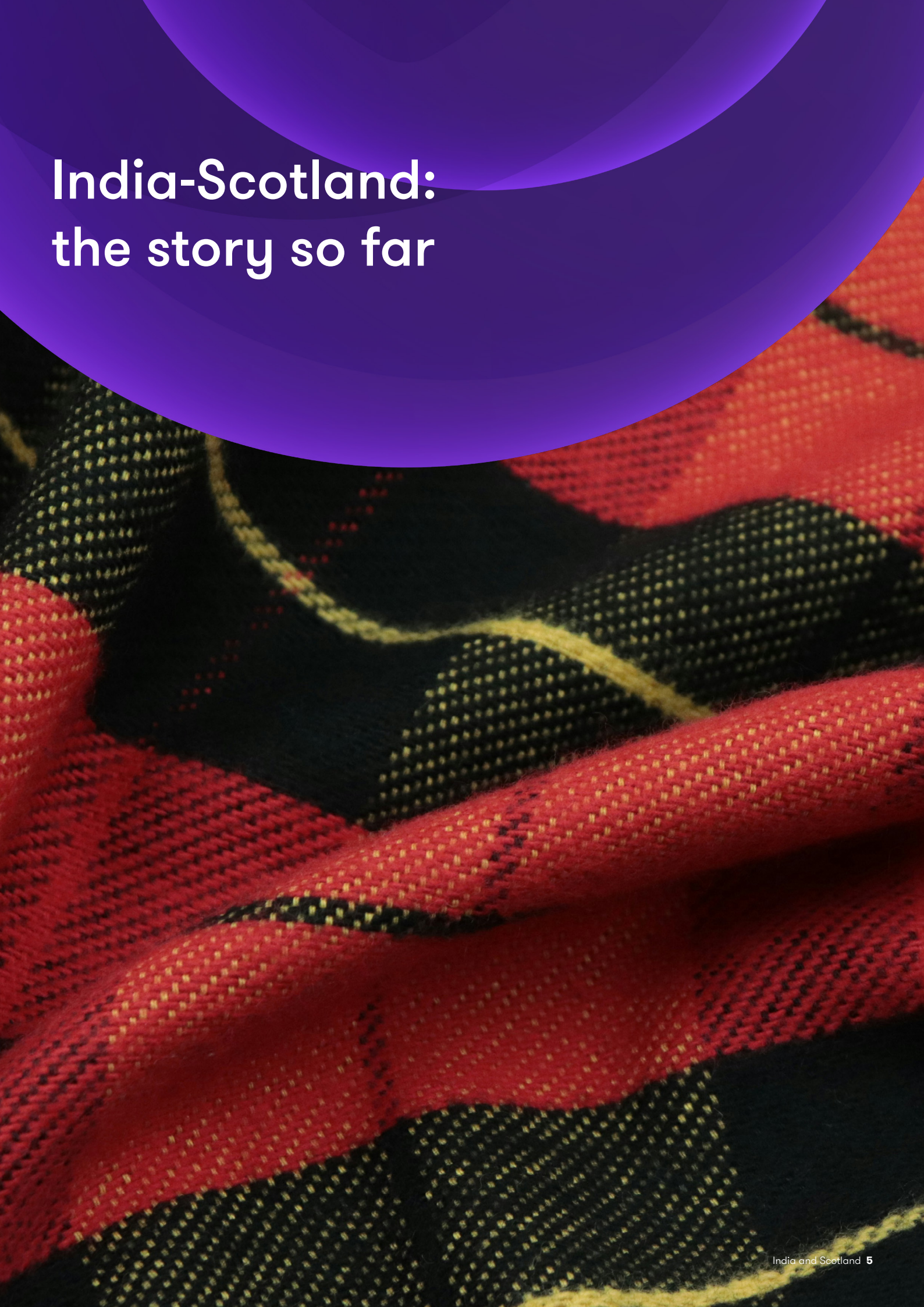
Sincerely,

Jyoti Vij

Director General

FICCI

India-Scotland: the story so far



Historical ties

The relationship between India and Scotland has been shaped by deep historical, cultural and economic ties. Since the seventeenth century, Scots have made some important contributions and have left a lasting imprint on the economic and social fabric. Notably, Almora-born Ronald Ross, who served in the Indian Medical Service for 25 years, became India's first Nobel laureate in 1902 for his work on malaria transmission. Scots in India also established associations such as the Caledonian Club and founded institutions like the Bombay Scottish School.

Scotland and India's intertwined histories continue to surface in unexpected ways, bridging the past with the present. In the Scottish village of Patna, Ayrshire, echoes of this connection can be easily traced. Founded in 1802 by William Fullarton, the village was named after the Indian city of his birth. Fullarton's father, Major General John Fullarton, served in the East India Company, and his ties to the subcontinent inspired him to bring a piece of India to Scotland.

The rich history has given rise to enduring connections, now reflected in the vibrant Indian diaspora in Scotland. Though modest in size, it has emerged as a bridge between the two cultures, with most of them residing in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Over 52,951¹ Indians play a vibrant role in Scotland's social, cultural and economic landscape, with important Indian festivals like Diwali, Holi and Dussehra celebrated enthusiastically by both Indian and Scottish communities.

The ongoing efforts to promote Scottish-Indian cultural exchange include projects that focus on youth engagement and knowledge sharing through literary exchanges, visual arts exhibitions, workshops, music festivals, theatre partnerships and educational initiatives. These comprise a Scottish crime writing delegation to Edinburgh and Kolkata, exhibitions by photography collective Fōcas Scotland, knowledge-sharing workshops on textile industries by Katy West and Glasgow School of Art, and Counterflows music festival in Glasgow that brings together music artists from both cultures, among others.

The shared history of collaboration, trade, and cultural exchange has forged a bond that continues to influence India and Scotland's relationship today, offering lessons of mutual respect and partnership for the future.

Current relations

The current relationship between the two is marked by significant collaborations in education, tourism and cultural exchange. The educational collaboration between India and Scotland has significantly strengthened bilateral ties, with Scotland becoming a favoured destination for Indian students pursuing higher education as a result of high academic standards, innovative research and diverse course offerings. Indian students are particularly drawn to fields such as engineering, business and science, and as of 2023, there were 12,235 Indian students in Scotland. This has led to increased collaboration in research and knowledge-sharing between the two regions.²

Tourism also plays a crucial role in enhancing the relationship between India and Scotland. The influx of Indian visitors not only boosts Scotland's tourism sector but also promotes cultural exchange and deeper understanding between the two regions. In July 2024, a diaspora-led group launched the 'Indo-Scot Direct' campaign to establish direct flights between Scotland and Indian cities, aiming to facilitate easier travel for Indian tourists to Scotland.

"Edinburgh Airport is delighted to continue to work in partnership with the Indian Consulate in Edinburgh and Consul General Malik as we actively work to establish direct flight connections between India and the Scottish capital. Travel between India and Scotland is growing quickly with more than 140,000 passengers travelling indirectly in 2024. The airport team hugely values the collaboration that we have with the Indian community and business sector in Scotland and it is an honour to be involved in this India-Scotland business meet. We welcome ongoing engagement with both our existing and new partners to bring this vision to reality and would like to thank the Consul General and his team for their ongoing support."

Jonny Macneal

Head of Aviation
Edinburgh Airport

Scotland's picturesque landscapes have been featured in over 100 Indian films across various languages, including Hindi, Punjabi and Tamil. Iconic filming locations such as Tantallon Castle, Eilean Donan Castle, Black Rock Cottage in Glencoe and Loch Lomond attract Indian visitors eager to explore these sites.

The bond between them finds expression in new and dynamic ways. At the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, Scotland's cricket team took to the field with the Nandini logo of Karnataka Milk Federation displayed on their jerseys, as the Indian dairy cooperative was the team's official sponsor. The Scottish Parliament has also established a cross-party group in India to promote cultural, educational and economic exchanges.

Sources:

1 [Crrer.org.uk](https://crrer.org.uk)

2 [Where do HE students come from?](#)

Building a stronger future together

The economic relationship between India and Scotland has developed into a dynamic and multifaceted partnership, forming a significant component of the broader India-UK corridor. Both have successfully capitalised on their unique strengths, with Scotland leveraging its advanced industries and India harnessing its fastest-growing economy. From early trade in textiles and raw materials, they're now actively collaborating across a range of industries.

Key areas of the economic relationship

Trade dynamics

Trade between India and Scotland has witnessed considerable growth and diversification. Scotland's exports to India include high-value goods such as power-generating machinery, industrial equipment, petroleum and petroleum products, and apparel and food items. In 2023, exports were valued at GBP 534.18 million.³

India supplies Scotland with a wide array of products ranging from chemical materials to paper and pulp, beverages and non-ferrous metals. In 2023, India's exports to Scotland were valued at GBP 489.06 million.

India-Scotland trade dynamics⁴

in GBP million	2021	2022	2023	2024 (H1)
Exports to Scotland	330.16	447.10	489.06	77.00
Imports from Scotland	448.79	746.40	534.18	129.00
Total	778.95	1193.5	1023.24	206.00

The significant increase in Scottish exports to India in 2022, primarily driven by a large jump in Scotch whisky sales, was due to a combination of factors, including the reopening of hospitality businesses globally post-pandemic, growing demand for premium spirits like Scotch whisky in India, increased market access through trade talks and a rising preference for high-quality alcoholic beverages among Indian consumers. However, the first half of 2024 saw a decline in exports due to volatile geopolitical and economic conditions.

³ [India-Scotland](#)

⁴ [India-Scotland](#)

Investment flows

Investments are a key pillar supporting this partnership. Scotland's investment in India has reached GBP 859 million, with a particular focus on sectors like renewable energy, engineering, and infrastructure.⁵

According to our Britain Meets India report 2024, produced in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry, the majority of Scottish firms in India operate in the business services and industrial products sectors, including The Weir Group plc, Clyde Bergemann Power Group plc and Enermech Group Limited.⁶

Our India Meets Britain 2024 report, also produced in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian industry, highlights that there are currently 971 Indian-owned companies in the UK, with the majority operating in technology, media and telecoms, and manufacturing and engineering sectors. India is currently the eleventh largest inward investor in Scotland,⁷ with major investments in sectors like IT, pharmaceuticals and business services – reflecting its expanding global footprint. Over 40 Indian companies have established a strong presence in Scotland, contributing significantly to the region's economic growth.

Examples of major Indian companies with a presence in Scotland⁸

- Aegis
- Axsys
- Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS)
- Infosys
- Piramal Healthcare
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- Tattva Group
- Usha Martin
- Wipro

Examples of major Scottish companies with a presence in India⁸

- Aggreko
- Menzies Aviation Cargo
- Proserv Group
- Royal Bank of Scotland
- Standard Life
- The Weir Group
- Touch Bionics
- Wood

Institutional support and future prospects

The relationship between India and Scotland has been bolstered by strong education and institutional links. Seventeen Scottish institutions are actively engaged in partnerships that foster innovation and knowledge exchange in India, strengthening cultural ties and contributing to the development of both economies.⁹ Moreover, both the Scottish Government and the Indian High Commission in the UK actively support business initiatives and collaborations.¹⁰

Looking ahead, the economic relationship between India and Scotland is poised for growth. As India's economy continues to grow and Scotland leverages its advanced industries, the partnership between the two will be a driving force for future prosperity.

⁵ [India Global](#)

⁶ [Britain Meets India](#)

⁷ [India-Scotland](#)

⁸ [India-Scotland](#)

⁹ [India Global](#)

¹⁰ [SDI](#)

A note on currency: all monetary figures not originally in GBP (eg, USD or INR), except Invest India stats, have been converted based on the annual average exchange rate in 2024.

Priority sectors and areas for collaboration

The partnership between India and Scotland has evolved to focus on sectors that harness their respective strengths, creating opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and sustainable growth. These sectors highlight not only economic complementarities but also shared values such as a commitment to sustainability, technological advancement and knowledge exchange.

India's industries, driven by a skilled workforce and a rapidly expanding consumer base, provide fertile ground for collaboration. Scotland, known for its innovation in niche sectors, has become a valuable partner by contributing cutting-edge expertise and high-quality solutions.

These focus sectors also reflect broader trends in global business, such as the increasing importance of digital transformation, clean energy and healthcare innovation. Scotland's focus on research and development (R&D) in these areas complements India's capacity for scalability and market expansion, making the collaboration both impactful and forward-looking. By focusing on these shared priorities, India and Scotland aren't only strengthening their economic ties but also creating pathways for long-term growth and societal impact.

India has introduced key reforms to attract foreign investment and enhance the ease of doing business, including 100% FDI under the automatic route, which allows foreign investors to invest fully without needing government approval, in most sectors, as well as goods and services tax (GST) implementation, the establishment of special economic zones (SEZs) and the 'Make in India' campaign. These measures have simplified regulations, improved market access and strengthened investor confidence. Meanwhile, Scotland offers a business-friendly environment with attractive tax incentives, strong regulatory support for innovation and flexible property options, making it an ideal destination for companies looking to expand.



Scotch whisky

The food and beverage sector is a vital aspect of the economic relationship between India and Scotland, with Scotch whisky representing Scotland's heritage and craftsmanship. For India, a growing appreciation for high-quality products reflects the evolving preferences of its consumer base, creating opportunities for enhanced trade and cultural connections in this sector.

Scotland exports whisky to 168 countries, generating over GBP 5.6 billion in 2023¹¹ and contributing GBP 3 for every GBP 100 of Scotland's total gross value added (GVA). The sector holds a prominent position in global trade and is the second most productive sector in the region.

India is the largest whisky market in the world¹² by volume, with a growth rate of 17.3% in H1 2024 as compared to the previous year. India's whisky market was valued at GBP 16.50 billion in 2023 and is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.61%, reaching GBP 22.62 billion by the end of the forecast period (2024-30).¹³ India currently has 24 single malt whisky distilleries.¹⁴

¹¹ [International Trade](#)

¹² [India and Scotch Whisky](#)

¹³ [India Market Size](#)

¹⁴ [Distilleries count](#)

As Indian consumers increasingly embrace premium spirits, the market holds significant potential to strengthen Scotch whisky's global prominence. Partnering with established Scottish brands can elevate Indian distilleries' reputation, attract investment and open new markets. The growing interest in premium blended malts in India, like Amrut Amalgam and Legacy by Bacardi, highlights the potential for collaboration, combining local expertise with global experience.¹⁵

There have been several successful collaborations between Scottish and Indian companies that highlight the potential of this growing sector. For example, Glenmorangie's 'It's Kind of Delicious and Wonderful' campaign in India demonstrated a deep cultural connection by bringing together local artists to create limited-edition festival packs and digital art and music experiences.¹⁶ Similarly, Loch Lomond Distillery has worked closely with Indian partners since 2016, offering a wide range of creative whisky flavours.¹⁷

Indian businesses also have multiple opportunities to contribute to the Scotch whisky industry. Scotland's focus on circular economy principles, especially in packaging, offers a chance for Indian innovation in sustainable solutions. Collaborations between Scotch whisky producers and Indian distilleries can enhance production processes and quality control, aligning with global standards.

The successful conclusion of the ongoing negotiations for the UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will help accelerate the growth of this industry. Currently, India imposes a 150% import tariff on each bottle of Scotch whisky, making it a high-end product for many consumers. However, the proposed tariff reduction under the FTA would make it more affordable and accessible to India's growing middle-class consumers.

This shift could also significantly boost Scotch whisky exports from India, potentially making it the second-largest global market by value, surpassing France. An increase in Scotch whisky sales will also increase tax revenue worth GBP 3.4 billion for the Indian Government and create new jobs, benefiting both the Indian and Scottish economies.¹⁸ In addition, the Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) aims to boost exports of Indian spirits under the 'Make in India' initiative, targeting GBP0.8 million in export revenue over the next few years.¹⁹

"For Scotch Whisky distillers, India is a unique market. Most Scotch Whisky sold in India is bottled locally, while bulk Scotch Whisky is an important ingredient in Indian whisky. As both the Indian Made Foreign Liquor and Scotch categories have grown, so has the investment in facilities in India and the jobs and growth that delivers, both in the industry itself as well as tourism and hospitality. We look forward to continuing to work with the Indian and UK governments to remove barriers to growth and facilitate further trade, delivering significant economic benefits for both countries, and giving whisky-drinkers in India increased choice as they continue to discover the quality and provenance of Scotch Whisky."

Mark Kent

Chief Executive
Scotch Whisky Association

"India has been an exciting journey so far, blending the rich heritage of scotch whisky with a dynamic and evolving market. This is backed up by India's strong macro-environment, such as its young population, economic foundations, evolving captive consumption, increasing disposable incomes and growing premiumisation across industries and categories. Specifically for us - India's whisky culture and the more recent premiumisation, coupled with the discerning consumer evolution, make it an attractive market.

With political stability and focus on ease of doing business, along with the potential to have bilateral and trade agreement with UK/Scotland, we see exciting possibilities in the near and long term future of business in India."

Sachin Mehta

Managing Director
William Grant and Sons India Pvt. Ltd.

15 [Glenmorangie](#)

16 [Glenmorangie](#)

17 [Loch Lomond Distillery](#)

18 [India and Scotch Whisky](#)

19 [APEDA](#)

Indian policies for the food processing sector

India's food processing sector has been a key focus of government policy, playing a crucial role in driving economic growth, improving farmers' income and enhancing the country's export potential. The Indian Government has introduced a range of targeted policies to boost the food processing industry, such as the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY),²⁰ which provides financial support for food processing projects, infrastructure and cold chain development. Additionally, the Food Processing Ministry has been promoting investments through the 'Make in India' initiative and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, allowing up to 100% FDI in food processing. These initiatives have led to significant growth in the sector. The Indian food processing market is expected to double from **approximately GBP 206 billion** in 2019-20 to **GBP 419 billion**²¹ by 2025.

Invest India key stats²²

Mega Food Park (MFP) Scheme

24/41 approved MFP are operational, offering state-of-the-art processing and cold chain infra to enhance value addition and minimize wastage. Financial aid of up to INR 10 crore.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

A total of 540 approved projects, creating a processing capacity of 86.06 lakh metric tonnes (LMT). Encompasses MFPs, cold chain projects, agro-processing clusters, food processing units and other initiatives.

Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Scheme

10.3 lakh MT of cold storage capacity, improving supply chain for perishable products and reducing post-harvest losses.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme

~USD 1.3 billion to promote the manufacturing of innovative and organic food products to boost India's global competitiveness.

One District One Product Scheme

1000+ district-specific food products have been identified from 760 districts to encourage localised food processing and product development.

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME)

Supports micro food enterprises by providing financial, technical and business assistance.

Operation Greens

Stabilises prices of perishable crops like tomatoes, onions and potatoes (TOP) by promoting integrated value chains and efficient logistics.

Investment incentives

100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) allowed under automatic route.

Taxation incentives

71.7% of food items under the lowest GST tax slabs, from 0% to 5%.

Operation Greens

Stabilises prices of perishable crops like tomatoes, onions, and potatoes (TOP) by promoting integrated value chains and efficient logistics.

²⁰ [Press Information Bureau](#)

²¹ [USDA](#)

²² [Invest India](#)



Health, life sciences and pharmaceuticals

Scotland's renowned expertise in biotechnology, precision medicine and advanced research complements India's position as a global pharmaceutical powerhouse and a hub for affordable healthcare solutions. With shared priorities in managing global health challenges and fostering research, both India and Scotland have several opportunities to successfully collaborate in this sector.

Scotland's health and life sciences sector has seen exceptional growth, achieving a record turnover of GBP 10.5 billion in 2021²³ – ahead of its 2025 target of GBP 8 billion.²⁴ With an estimated GVA of GBP 4.6 billion and over 725 organisations employing 44,200 people,²⁵ it's one of Europe's largest life sciences clusters.²⁶ Scotland's medtech sub-sector, in particular, boasts a cluster of around 250 companies employing 9,000 people, supported by 15 universities excelling in medical technology research.²⁷

India's healthcare sector, one of its largest employers with a workforce of 7.5 million individuals,²⁸ has become a global hub for R&D and medical tourism due to its cost-effective services and skilled professionals. The industry is projected to grow from GBP 86 billion in 2016 to GBP 498 billion in 2025. By 2030, the demand for Indian healthcare professionals is also expected to double due to a shortage of these workers, with only 1.7 nurses per 1,000 people and a doctor-to-patient ratio of 1:1,500.²⁹

India is a global leader in pharmaceutical production, particularly in generics and vaccines, with pharma exports soaring to GBP 21.8 billion in 2024.³⁰ It's also making significant strides in medtech and biotech, bolstered by a thriving healthtech ecosystem and strong government support. It's open to FDI in pharmaceuticals, biotech and medtech manufacturing, which is anticipated to further strengthen its position as a growing hub for life sciences.

23 [Growth Sector Briefing - Life Sciences Report \(Pg 3\)](#)

24 [Daily Business Group Article](#)

25 [Growth Sector Briefing - Life Sciences Report \(Pg 2.4\)](#) (Data as of 2021)

26 [SDI website](#)

27 [SDI website](#)

28 [IBEF website](#)

29 [IBEF website](#)

30 [Business Today](#)

Several notable collaborations between India and Scotland in the sector showcase the growing partnership and potential that exists. In 2023, India's Piramal Group expanded its footprint in Scotland by opening a state-of-the-art antibody-drug conjugate facility in Grangemouth, a significant GBP 45 million investment.³¹

Similarly, a joint initiative between the University of Edinburgh and the Department of Science and Technology, Gujarat, played a pivotal role in the establishment of India's first biotechnology university in 2022, Gujarat Biotechnology.³² 2022 also saw the launch of the University of Glasgow's flagship research facility, the GBP 118 million Mazumdar-Shaw Advanced Research Centre (ARC). The ARC will be home to more than 500 researchers and aims to act as a catalyst for collaborative research.³³

Additionally, the Scottish Lifesciences Association (SLA) and the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration between biotechnology companies in Scotland and India. SLA represents its members who manufacture medical devices, diagnostics, drugs and digital health systems and provide pharma-services to other firms, while ABLE is a leading not-for-profit body representing over 400+ members in the Indian biotechnology sector. Through this MoU, the two organisations aim to drive cross-border innovation, investment and technological exchange between them while promoting life sciences and technology-based FDI. It will also enhance the global competitiveness of Scottish and Indian companies, support joint R&D initiatives in areas of common interest and encourage entrepreneurship among young professionals.

"The MoU was first discussed with Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw in Glasgow around 20 years ago. Now that we have the SLA, we can finally get a formal agreement in place. A few of the SLA members are already doing business with India, and we are excited for the future. Key to this is de-risking setting up in India, and the agreement is helping members already. We are looking forward to setting up more Scottish companies in India and welcoming Indian companies here to Scotland."

Scott Johnstone

CEO

Scottish Lifesciences Association

Scotland's efforts to strengthen the sector are anchored in its life sciences strategy, which seeks to position it as a global leader in life sciences.³⁴ Initiatives such as the Edinburgh BioQuarter – a major hub that integrates academic research, clinical delivery and commercial innovation – provide fertile ground for joint R&D projects in biotechnology, medtech and pharmaceuticals with Indian institutions.³⁵ As part of its commitment to improving healthcare, the Universal Health Care Bill was introduced in India in 2021, with the aim to provide quality care for all citizens through preventive care, better integration of primary healthcare into existing government schemes and enhanced transparency. Additionally, the Indian Government is planning to roll out a credit incentive programme worth GBP 4.14 billion to improve the healthcare infrastructure.³⁶

These initiatives open avenues for cross-border collaboration between India and Scotland, particularly in digital healthcare solutions, drug development and the broader medtech landscape.

³¹ [Foreign Direct Investment | FDI | Make in India](#)

³² [University of Edinburgh website](#)

³³ [University of Glasgow](#)

³⁴ [Life Sciences Strategy for Scotland 2025 Vision Report \(Pg 5\)](#)

³⁵ [Edinburgh BioQuarter website](#)

³⁶ [IBEF website](#)

Indian policies for the pharmaceuticals sector

Building on its strengths as the ‘pharmacy of the world’³⁷, India is taking strategic steps to drive the expansion of the pharmaceuticals sector. The Indian Government has introduced various policies to promote the sector, including allowing 100% FDI through the automatic route,³⁸ introducing the National Medical Devices Policy 2023 and the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for bulk drugs. These measures will reinforce India’s position in the global pharmaceutical landscape while strengthening domestic manufacturing and encouraging innovation.

Invest India key stats³⁹

Foreign direct investment

- 100% automatic route FDI allowed for greenfield and 74% for brownfield projects

Scheme for strengthening the pharma industry

- GBP 49.4 million allocated under this scheme
- Aim to enhance productivity, quality and sustainability for existing pharma clusters and MSMEs

Scheme for the promotion of R&I in pharma and medtech

- GBP 67.5 million allocated
- Aim to establish CoEs at 7 National Institutes of Pharma Education and research
- Also offers ~35% funding/GBP 12 million for 9 pharma companies

National Medical Devices Policy 2023

- Aims to establish India as a global leader in medical device manufacturing and innovation
- Focus on regulatory streamlining, infra development, R&D and attracting investments
- Medical Device Parks Scheme

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras

- Target to increase kendras/centres to 10,500 by March 2025
- Product basket of 1,451 drugs and 240 surgical instruments

Production Linked Incentive Scheme

- Scheme for domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs
- Scheme for high value pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical products

Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment (BioE3) Policy⁴⁰

- Framework for the implementation of the Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry Initiative
- Promote transformation from today’s consumptive manufacturing paradigm to the one based on regenerative principles.

37 [Make in India](#)

38 [SDI Article](#)

39 [Invest India](#)

40 [BioE3 Policy](#)

Case study: Piramal in Scotland

Journey in Scotland

Piramal Pharma Solutions is a prominent Indian pharmaceutical company with a strong global presence and a reputation for delivering innovative solutions across the healthcare sector. The firm entered Scotland through the acquisition of the Grangemouth facility in 2005. The facility focuses on the development of antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), an advanced class of cancer drugs that deliver targeted therapy with minimal side effects compared to traditional drugs available for cancer treatment. For over 20 years, it has played a pivotal role in advancing developments in ADCs – one of the fastest-growing segments in the industry.

Growth trajectory

The Grangemouth site has grown by 15-20% in the last four to five years. It's recognised as one of the top three global ADC contract development and manufacturing organisations (CDMOs). With an investment of GBP 45 million in a brand new state-of-the-art commercial facility, which opened in Q1 2024, it further strengthened its capabilities, capacities and commitment to pioneering cancer treatments.

Leveraging Scotland's talent pool

Since its inception, the facility has experienced remarkable growth, both in scale and talent. What began with a workforce of around 30 has now expanded to a team of approaching 300 highly skilled scientific professionals. Its proximity to Edinburgh and Glasgow continues to attract top-tier talent, further strengthening its capabilities.

Government support

The Scottish Government has been a strong supporter of the facility, with Scottish Enterprise recently providing a GBP 2.5 million grant to drive R&D initiatives. Over the years, it has received several grants, which have played a crucial role in accelerating its growth. The facility's advancements in ADC development have also positioned it as a key player in the sector, drawing continued government interest.

Looking forward, Piramal anticipates significant growth, with plans to expand its talent pool by adding more skilled professionals to the team within the next five years.



Education and skill development

Education has long served as a bridge for collaboration and progress between nations. Both India and Scotland take pride in their distinguished academic legacies and globally renowned institutions.

Scotland's education and skill development sector is a major contributor to its economy, generating a turnover of GBP 3.5 billion in 2022 – a remarkable 18% year-on-year growth.

With a GVA of GBP 2.0 billion in the same year, the sector reflects its pivotal role in driving progress.⁴¹ In comparison, India's education sector, valued at GBP 91.4 billion in 2023 and projected to grow to GBP 244.4 billion by 2030, also highlights immense potential.⁴² With the world's largest population of 580 million individuals in the age group of 5-24 years,⁴³ India offers vast opportunities to Scottish education institutions.

⁴¹ [Industry Statistics](#)

⁴² [Brickwork Ratings Report](#)

⁴³ [IBEF website](#)

Scotland's prestigious universities, such as the University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow and University of St Andrews, have long attracted international students. Over 12,235 Indian students were studying in Scottish universities in 2022-23.⁴⁴ With India's substantial student base and rising demand for global education, opportunities abound for Scotland to expand scholarships, exchange programmes, and joint degrees. Further, research collaborations in fields like renewable energy, biotechnology and healthcare will foster innovation, skills development, and cross-cultural exchange, and build a mutually beneficial ecosystem.

International students, including those from India, make a significant contribution to Scotland's economy, not just through tuition fees but also through living expenses and other costs. This spending directly supports jobs within Scottish universities, enabling funding support for teaching and research activities.⁴⁵ Beyond the financial impact, the presence of Indian students enriches the cultural fabric of Scottish universities, fostering a truly global learning environment.

Institutions in India and Scotland have successfully collaborated on several initiatives. In May 2023, the University of Edinburgh's Climate Change Institute, in partnership with the Consulate General of India, launched its first open-access course in Hindi. This course, also available in English and Arabic, was designed to highlight the climate challenges faced by India, Egypt, the UAE, and the UK.⁴⁶

Scottish universities have established strong academic collaborations with several Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), fostering research and student exchange. In March 2023, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and the University of Edinburgh signed a five-year MoU focused on enhancing academic collaboration in research, curriculum development and community service.⁴⁷ Since 2016, Robert Gordon University (RGU), Aberdeen, has partnered with the Informatics Institute of Technology (IIT) to offer computing and business courses. In 2010, the University of Glasgow signed a MoU with IIT Ropar to develop teaching and research links, including staff and student exchanges and collaborative research projects.

Notable collaborations between Indian and Scottish education institutions in the last three years:

- **University of Edinburgh and Gujarat Biotechnology University (GBU)** In March 2024, the University of Edinburgh initiated a 10-year strategic partnership with GBU, India's first biotechnology university. This collaboration aims to advance biotechnology research and entrepreneurship to address global challenges such as climate change and antimicrobial resistance. It includes a bespoke curriculum for GBU's master's in biotechnology programme and research placements for GBU students in Edinburgh.
- **University of Edinburgh and Rajagiri College of Social Sciences** In March 2023, the University of Edinburgh signed a memorandum of understanding with Rajagiri College of Social Sciences to strengthen social work research and teaching links. The partnership aims to enhance research links and reciprocal exchange of staff and students, including collaboration in teaching, research and community services.
- **City of Glasgow College and Scottish Institute of Hospitality Sciences (SIHS)** In August 2022, the City of Glasgow College partnered with SIHS to establish a vocational institute in Nashik, Maharashtra. The institute offers courses in international culinary and hospitality management, with curricula and assessments overseen by professionals from the City of Glasgow College.

Several government initiatives have been introduced to further collaboration between them. 'A Scotland for the Future' initiative focuses on attracting more international students and enhancing retention after graduation, paving the way for stronger academic exchange programmes, joint research and faculty collaborations.⁴⁸

Additionally, the Indian Government's initiatives, such as 'Study in India', are part of the New Education Policy (NEP), which aims to enrol 500,000 international students by 2047 and promote 'internationalisation at home'. It focuses on reaching underserved areas and communities while establishing India as a leading global study destination.⁴⁹

In line with recommendations outlined in the NEP, the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations 2023 also provide an international dimension to higher education in India, allowing foreign higher education institutions to set up their campuses there. The primary objective of these regulations is to ensure that the education imparted on the campus is on par with that of the main campus in the country of origin.⁵⁰ The Government has also issued regulations to enable foreign universities to partner with Indian education institutions to offer joint degree, dual degree and twinning programmes. Furthermore, to facilitate setting up and ease of doing business, the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), India's maiden International Financial Services Centre, launched the 2022 Regulations on branch campuses. These regulations permit India branch campuses of foreign universities in the GIFT IFSC to repatriate funds in a relaxed regulatory environment.

⁴⁴ [Where do HE students come from? | HESA](#)

⁴⁵ [Gov.scot](#)

⁴⁶ [Deccan Herald Article](#)

⁴⁷ [The University of Edinburgh website](#)

⁴⁸ [Sector Stability for Scotland's Growth Report \[Pg 7\]](#)

⁴⁹ [Invest India](#)

⁵⁰ [UGC FHEI](#)

Indian policies for the education and skill development sector

The Indian Government has introduced a number of policies in the education and skill development sector that are crucial for addressing the country's demographic dividend, with a projected population of 1.5 billion by 2030. Key initiatives include the NEP 2020,⁵¹ which aims to provide quality education to every child and strengthen vocational training programmes, and the Skill India Mission, which aims to train 500 million people by 2022, boosting the workforce's employability and bridging the skills gap.

The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) has already trained over 12 million youth and plans to increase this number through industry-aligned programmes. These efforts are complemented by the rise of online learning platforms such as SWAYAM, which is enhancing access to digital education.

For businesses, this talent pool provides access to a highly-skilled, cost-effective workforce, enhancing productivity and fostering innovation. For international collaborations, especially with places like Scotland, this offers significant opportunities in areas such as technology, manufacturing and services while also driving FDI.

Invest India key stats⁵²

2020 National Education Policy (NEP)

Aims to revolutionise India's education system through school curriculum reforms, boost the gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education from 26.3% (2018) to 50% (2035), and promote internationalisation and tech integration to enhance learning, teaching and research.

2023 UGC Regulations on branch campuses

Simplify the process for foreign universities to establish physical campuses in India.

2022 Regulations on Twinning Programmes, Joint and Dual Degrees

Students to complete at least 30 per cent of their course requirement from the foreign university in 'conventional mode' under this arrangement.

2022 IFSCA Regulations on branch campuses

Streamline the establishment of intl branch campuses in the GIFT City SEZ.

Top 100 foreign universities will be allowed in GIFT City free from domestic regulations, except those by the IFSCA.

Foreign Direct Investment

100% FDI (automatic route) is allowed in the education sector in India.

Skills India Mission

Encompasses key initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) to align skill development with industry requirements.

51 NEP

52 Invest India



Gaming and animation

The gaming and animation sector is rapidly evolving, blending entertainment, technology and creativity. Scotland and India are emerging as key players within this dynamic sector. Scotland's well-established reputation for game development, supported by a strong digital infrastructure and a skilled workforce, complements India's rapidly expanding gaming market, driven by its large, young and tech-savvy population.

As both Scotland and India make continued advancements in the gaming and animation sector, their growth stories highlight the sector's global potential. India's gaming market grew by 23% YoY to approximately GBP 3.0 billion in 2024 and is set to expand significantly, with projections indicating a rise to approximately GBP 7.8 billion by 2029, growing at a five-year CAGR of 20%.⁵³ This is fuelled by the increasing interest of the country's young population in online games. Meanwhile, Scotland's GBP 146.3 billion⁵⁴ gaming industry has seen remarkable growth, surpassing the broader UK market.⁵⁵

Permissible FDI in the Indian gaming sector – 100% through the automatic route⁵⁶

The Indian and Scottish gaming sectors are ripe with opportunities for collaboration. With companies like Nazara and Winzo from India actively participating in global events such as the Game Developers Conference (GDC), there are clear avenues for partnerships with Scottish gaming studios.⁵⁷ Potential areas for collaboration include hosting cross-border esports tournaments, where the Indian Skillhub Online Games Federation (SOGF) can team up with Scottish firms to organise competitive events.⁵⁸ Additionally, Scottish game development studios like 4J Studios can collaborate with Indian developers to co-create innovative games, share technology and tap into new markets together.^{59, 60}

Several collaborations between the two are already underway. In January 2024, Abertay University formed a strategic partnership with Mumbai-based institutions to enhance education on video games, creating new opportunities for students, researchers, and industry professionals.⁶¹ The Scottish Government supports the industry through initiatives like the Scottish Games Network and the Interactive Scotland Conference.⁶² Scotland is also the first region in the UK to implement a national games strategy.⁶³ Meanwhile, the Indian Government has permitted 100% FDI in the gaming sector through the automatic route, easing restrictions for foreign investors.⁶⁴ The Indian Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has also implemented a framework for online gaming through amendments to the IT Rules 2021, which aims to promote the expansion of online gaming innovation while protecting citizens from illegal online gambling.⁶⁵

53 [IBEF](#)

54 [Digit.fyi](#)

55 [Scotland.org](#)

56 [Invest India](#)

57 [Animation Xpress](#)

58 [SOG Federation](#)

59 [Scottish Development International](#)

60 [Built In](#)

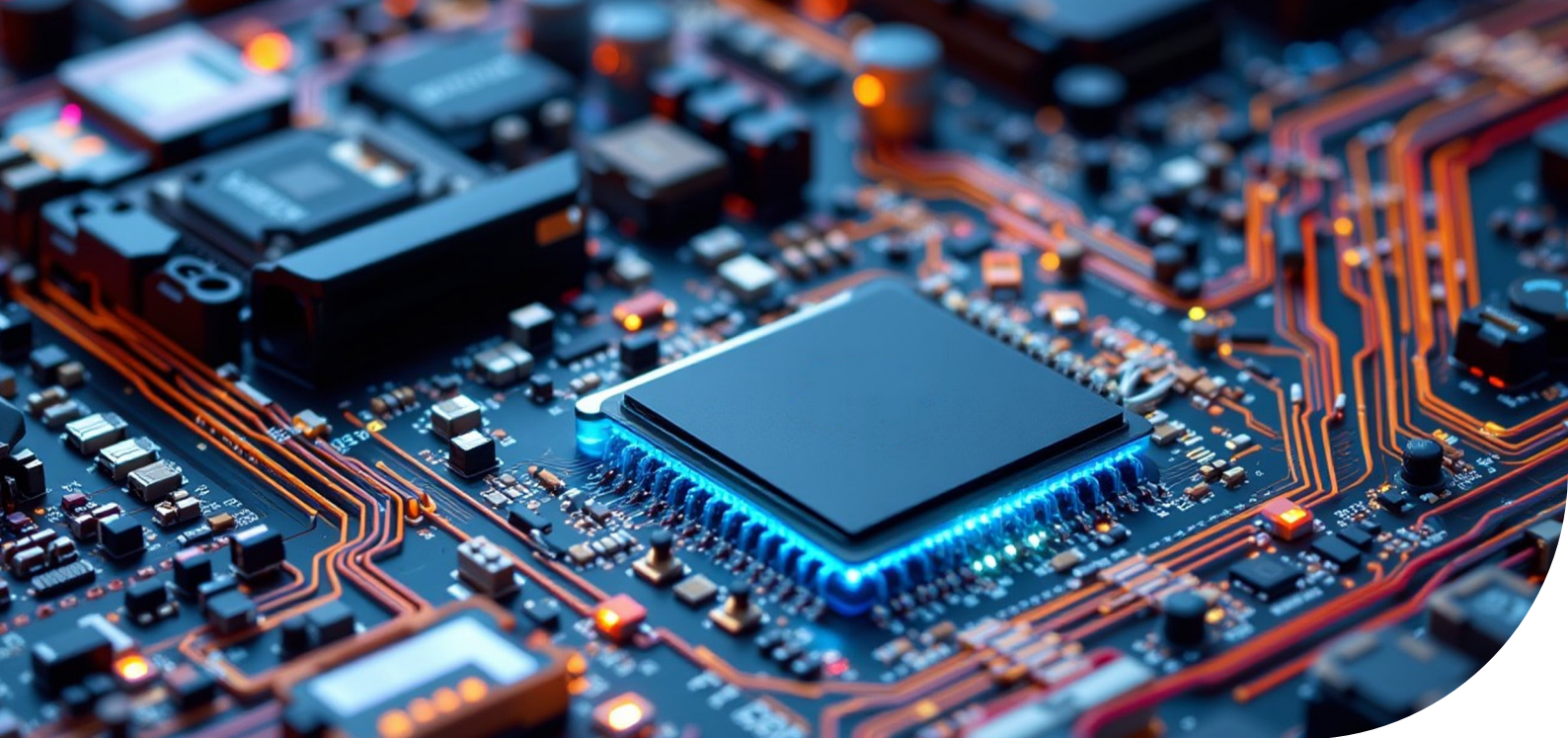
61 [Abertay University](#)

62 [Scotland.org](#)

63 [Scottish Games](#)

64 [Invest India](#)

65 [Invest India](#)



Technology and innovation

Scotland and India, with their robust technological ecosystems, are advancing fields such as artificial intelligence, data analytics and digital transformation. Scotland's strong emphasis on R&D drives cutting-edge breakthroughs, while India's dynamic start-up ecosystem fuels innovation and scalability. These complementary strengths position both nations to spearhead advancements that could reshape the global technological landscape.

As technology continues to bridge geographical boundaries, Scotland and India can join forces to make impactful collaborations within the sector. Scotland's technology sector employs 80,000 people and contributes GBP 6 billion to the economy as of January 2024,⁶⁶ whereas India's technology sector employs 5.43 million people and generated around GBP 198.34 billion in revenue in 2023-24.⁶⁷ Scotland's flourishing fintech industry, valued at GBP 2.8 billion in 2023, has attracted growing investments from Indian firms, especially start-ups at the forefront of technological advancements.⁶⁸

Permissible FDI in the Indian IT sector – 100% through the automatic route⁶⁹

Skyscanner's successful expansion into India also highlights the growing scope for cross-border collaboration between Scotland and India. As one of the world's leading travel search engines, Skyscanner recognised the significant opportunities presented by India's expanding travel market. The company has established a local team to build partnerships and customise its offerings for Indian consumers.^{70, 71}

The Scottish Government's 2025-2026 Budget includes a GBP 321 million investment to support advancements in AI and robotics, along with programmes like Techscaler aimed at helping start-ups scale.⁷² The MSP delegation to India also highlighted opportunities for collaboration in their emerging fintech industries.⁷³

Indian policies for the technology and innovation sector

Recognising the pivotal role of the technology and innovation sector in economic growth, the Indian Government has introduced several policy initiatives to foster innovation and digital transformation. Measures such as the PLI Scheme for large-scale electronics, the Semicon India Programme and the National Super Computing Mission are designed to bolster the country's tech ecosystem, attract investment and drive global competitiveness.

66 [Innovation Minister speech](#)

67 [MEITY](#)

68 [Indo-Scotland](#)

69 [Press Information Bureau](#)

70 [Indo-Scotland](#)

71 [SkyScanner](#)

72 [Investment](#)

73 [CPG Delegation](#)



Invest India key stats⁷⁴

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

- Outlay: USD 5.8 BN (2023-28) - research and prototype activities
- Prime Minister's Early Career Research Grant (PM ECRG) programme
- EV-Mission programme – Promote R&D of EV adoption in India
- Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR)
- Inclusivity Research Grant (IRG) - Funding support to SCs/STs

National Quantum Mission (NQM) - USD 0.7 BN (2023-31)

4 thematic hubs: IISc, Bengaluru, IIT Madras, IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi

National Super Computing Mission (NSM)

Outcome: 27 Peta Flop (PF) of computing capacity at 28 sites till 2023

CY25: Additional 45 PF of computing infrastructure creation expected

Semicon India Programme - USD 10 BN (semicon mfg. ecosystem)

- Modified Scheme for setting up of Semicon Fabs - fiscal support of 50% of project cost
- Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme - product design and deployment linked incentive

Scheme for the promotion of mfg. of electronic components and semiconductors

- Financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure for electronic components
- > USD 1 BN incremental investment and > USD 2 BN production has been made as of Jun'24

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for large scale electronics

- Incentive of 3-6% on incremental sales of goods manufactured in India for 5-year period
- > USD 970 MN incremental investment and USD 59.7 BN production has been made as of Jun'24

Case study: Infosys in Scotland

Journey in Scotland

Infosys established a presence in Scotland over 25 years ago, with an initial focus on the financial services sector. Over time, the company has significantly broadened its scope, establishing a strong presence in industries such as energy, manufacturing and utilities. Through strategic collaborations with leading local firms like Sainsbury's Bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Tesco Bank, Computershare and BP, Infosys has become a trusted partner in driving innovation.

Leveraging its expertise in digital transformation, cloud adoption and AI-driven automation, the firm delivers tailored strategic and technological solutions through its delivery centres across the UK, including Edinburgh, catering to client-specific needs.

Currently, approximately 10-15% of Infosys' team works from client locations in Scotland. These employees are further supported by teams from the company's offices in India.

"Scotland and India share a dynamic business relationship, driven by innovation, talent and a thriving ecosystem. India's vast market and skilled workforce have fuelled our growth, while Scotland's cutting-edge expertise offers immense opportunities for Indian businesses. Our journey has been one of expansion and collaboration, and we look forward to deepening partnerships, driving investment, and fostering mutual success in the years ahead."

Sujeet Singh

Portfolio Head - Financial Services
Infosys

Why Infosys chose Scotland?

According to Sujeet Singh, Portfolio Head - Financial Services, Infosys, Scotland presents several advantages. The region offers a competitive cost of living, attractive salaries and access to a highly skilled workforce graduated from its top-tier universities. Scotland's thriving start-up ecosystem, spanning diverse sectors, provides fertile ground for innovation and collaboration.

The growing fintech sector also presents significant opportunities for partnerships and growth. However, addressing the challenge of providing direct connectivity to India could further enhance its appeal as a business hub.

Shaping Scotland's technology landscape

Infosys has contributed significantly to Scotland's technology sector by driving digital transformation for financial services and public sector organisations. The company also invests in CSR initiatives, including training and collaborations with local businesses to bridge digital skill gaps and support innovation in areas such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, and cloud computing.

Case study: Tata Consultancy Services in Scotland

Journey in Scotland

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is a global IT services, consulting and business solutions leader, supporting major enterprises in their transformation journeys for over 56 years. A part of the Tata Group, India's largest multinational business group, TCS entered Scotland in 1982. In 2023 and 2022, the firm generated GBP 3.83 billion and GBP 3.49 billion in revenue in the UK, respectively, with Scotland's revenue being 12.5% of the UK's total.

The company has a strong presence in Scotland, with offices and delivery centres in Edinburgh and Stirling and operations across Glasgow, Perth and Aberdeen. It employs over 24,000 professionals in the UK, including 3,900 in Scotland.

“Scotland has been a key market for Tata Consultancy Services for over 40 years, driven by a strong talent pool, thriving innovation ecosystem and strategic partnerships with leading universities. Our significant double-digit growth in the region over the past two years reflects the increasing demand for technology and innovation partners like us. We remain committed to fostering digital transformation across sectors such as public services, energy, and food and beverages while continuing to invest in research collaborations and community initiatives. Our vision is to drive sustainable innovation while supporting the local economy and talent development.”

Gopalan Rajagopalan

Head, TCS Scotland and UK/I Sales Director
Tata Consultancy Services

Experiencing success

Since entering Scotland, TCS has achieved remarkable success. In 2024, it partnered with Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, to democratise data access, enabling stakeholders to harness data-driven insights. The company also expanded its long-standing partnership with Phoenix Group in 2023 to digitally transform the latter's ReAssure business through the TCS BaNCS™ platform. Additionally, in 2021, TCS collaborated with Scotland's local government Improvement Service (IS) to accelerate digital transformation initiatives.

Driving innovation

TCS spearheads innovation in Scotland through research and industry collaboration. Key examples include an applied engineering and research partnership with The National Robotarium – an R&D centre at Heriot-Watt University in October 2022 and TCS Co-Innovation Network (COIN)'s collaboration with Phoenix Group and Fintech Scotland in May 2022 to drive forward innovation in customer engagement and financial wellbeing.

With a deep commitment to Scotland's digital future, TCS continues to shape industries through technology, talent and strategic partnerships.



Renewable energy

Scotland has established itself as a leader in clean energy, particularly with its expertise in offshore wind, tidal power, and emerging green hydrogen technologies. On the side of the corridor, India's renewable energy capacity has seen exponential growth, driven by strong policy frameworks and large-scale infrastructure projects. The convergence of Scotland's innovation-driven approach and India's scalability offers a compelling case for collaboration.

Scotland's renewable energy sector has seen impressive growth, with its total generation capacity reaching 15.4 GW as of March 2024 – four times larger than it was in 2008. Onshore wind remains the dominant source, making up 62% of the total installed capacity, followed by significant contributions from offshore wind, hydro and solar photovoltaics.⁷⁵ Similarly, India's renewable energy sector is rapidly expanding, surpassing 200 GW in total energy capacity in October 2024.⁷⁶ With expectations to reach 170 GW by March 2025,⁷⁷ India's renewable energy landscape is evolving quickly, positioning both at the forefront of the global shift to green energy.

75 [Scottish Renewables](#)

76 [PIB](#)

77 [IBEF](#)

Permissible FDI in the Indian renewable energy sector - 100% through the automatic route⁷⁸

A 2016 report by the Scottish Government highlighted India's need for a comprehensive plan to expand its renewable energy capacity and transition to a sustainable energy mix. Scotland, with its proven expertise in offshore, onshore, marine and tidal technologies, is well-positioned to support India in meeting its renewable energy goals.⁷⁹ The renewable energy sector is rapidly becoming a focal point for growing discussion between them, particularly around wind, solar and hydroelectric power.

Since 2009, India and Scotland have explored collaboration opportunities in areas like clean water management and renewable energy. The Indian Government's focus on clean water initiatives, such as the 'Ganga River Cleaning Project,' presents significant opportunities for further cooperation.⁸⁰ The Scottish Government also aims to partner with India to share best practices in large water-body management and water purification technologies. This wouldn't only enhance Scotland's profile as a 'hydro nation,' but also provide economic benefits to both by fostering sustainable solutions.^{81, 82}

"Establishing stronger links between Scotland and India will help accelerate the deployment of clean hydrogen production and its use in a range of applications. There are significant opportunities for growing the trade of hydrogen systems, components, and services between Scotland and India with a focus on sustainable and low-carbon hydrogen production at scale. The inaugural India-Scotland Business Meet in Edinburgh in early March 2025 will be an important event for initiating hydrogen sector cooperation with the Government, hydrogen associations and industry stakeholders. This meeting will help build on the findings and recommendations of the Scottish Government's recently released Hydrogen Sector Export Plan and supporting Assessment Report, which identified India as one of the key markets."

Dr Nigel Holmes

CEO

Hydrogen Scotland

Both have introduced government-led initiatives that promote collaboration in renewable energy. India's National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to establish it as a global hub for green hydrogen production, usage and export. This initiative will help India become *aatmanirbhar* through clean energy while contributing to the global clean energy transition and aligns with Scotland's focus on green energy production.⁸³ Further, the Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment (BioE3) Policy, approved in 2024, strengthens India's innovation ecosystem. It aims to strengthen government initiatives such as 'Net Zero carbon economy' and 'Lifestyle for Environment' and will steer India on the path of accelerated 'Green Growth' by promoting 'Circular Bioeconomy.'⁸⁴

The Scottish Government's Hydrogen Policy Statement, published in 2020, outlines an ambitious goal of achieving 5 GW of installed capacity by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045. As part of this strategy, Scotland has identified five priority countries for hydrogen exports, which includes India. Early engagement with the Indian market will offer Scottish companies the chance to collaborate on key projects, capitalising on mutual growth opportunities in this sector.⁸⁵ The Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES), launched in 2016, supports community-owned renewable projects, reflecting its commitment to clean energy.

India has set ambitious goals for its renewable energy sector, aiming to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy by 2030 as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The Indian Government has launched several policies and initiatives to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy, including the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which promotes solar energy, wind energy, and bioenergy.

⁷⁸ [Press Information Bureau](#)

⁷⁹ [Scotland's International Framework India Engagement Strategy](#)

⁸⁰ [Scotland Government](#)

⁸¹ [Scotland Government](#)

⁸² [Scottish Chamber of Commerce](#)

⁸³ [MNRE.gov.in \(National Green Hydrogen Mission\)](#)

⁸⁴ [Press Information Bureau](#)

⁸⁵ [Scottish-enterprise](#)

Indian policies for the renewable energy sector⁸⁶

India has also established the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to promote domestic manufacturing of renewable energy equipment, fostering self-reliance. The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme focuses on providing solar pumps to farmers, while the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) encourages energy efficiency in industries. With solar power becoming one of the fastest-growing sources of energy in India, it's on track to meet its renewable energy targets, attracting significant FDI and fostering cross-border collaborations in the sector.⁸⁷

Invest India key stats⁸⁸

Solar

- PLI Scheme for high efficiency PV modules
- Solar Parks scheme (RPO till '30)
- Rooftop solar programme
- Basic Customs Duty on cells (25%) and modules (40%) imported

Wind

- National Repowering and Life Extension Policy
- Offshore wind promotion: Bid Trajectory for 37 GW capacity has been demarcated
- 1 GW (500 MW each) capacity projects for offshore wind have been allocated in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in Sep'24
- Separate RPO trajectory for wind

Energy storage

- Viability Gap Funding for 4,000 MWh battery storage
- Detailed framework for pumped storage under formulation
- Issuance of Energy Storage Obligation till 2030

Electricity transmission

- Tariff-based competitive bidding
- Waiver on inter-state transmission charges for transmission of solar and wind energy
- Green Energy Corridors

RE generation

- RE Parks promoting solar, wind and RTC parks
- Offshore wind zones identified for bidding
- Special incentives at the state level for component manufacturing

Green hydrogen (GH2)

- National Green Hydrogen Mission – initial outlay of USD 2.4 bn up to the year 2029-30
- SIGHT to incentivise electrolyser mfg and GH2 production
- Green hydrogen hubs to be developed at 3 ports
- Aim to have GH2 production capacity of 5 MMT p.a. and 15 GW electrolyser capacity by 2030

86 [Invest India](#)

87 [Mnre.gov.in](#)





88 [Invest India](#)

Regional mapping of opportunities

Effective collaboration between India and Scotland hinges on recognising the distinct strengths of each. By linking the industrial capabilities of Indian states with Scotland's sectoral expertise, this section identifies how targeted partnerships can drive meaningful growth, innovation and investment. A region-specific approach enables both to leverage their unique assets, maximising economic potential and unlocking new opportunities for sustained development.



Key regions

	India	Scotland
 <p>Scotch whisky</p>	<p>Highest whisky-consuming states</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delhi, • Maharashtra⁸⁹ • Karnataka • Tamil Nadu • Punjab 	<p>Key whisky-producing regions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speyside • Islay • Highlands • Islands • Lowlands • Campbeltown⁹⁰
 <p>Health, life sciences and pharmaceuticals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyderabad (pharmaceuticals and biotech) • Bangalore (healthtech) • Pune (R&D) • Mumbai (manufacturing) • Ahmedabad (generics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glasgow (biotech and medtech) • Edinburgh (digital health and AI) • Aberdeen (biopharma) • Dundee (precision medicine)
 <p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delhi NCR • Bangalore • Hyderabad • Pune • Mumbai • Chennai⁹¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh • Glasgow • Aberdeen • Dundee⁹²
 <p>Gaming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangalore • Mumba • Hyderabad • Pune • Delhi-NC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dundee • Edinburgh • Glasgow⁹³
 <p>Technology and innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangalore (IT and start-ups) • Hyderabad (AI and blockchain) • Pune (software and automotive tech) • Chennai (AI and healthcare) • Delhi-NCR (fintech and edtech)⁹⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh (fintech and AI) • Glasgow (software and medtech) • Dundee (gaming and creative industries) • Aberdeen (oil and gastech)⁹⁵
 <p>Renewable energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gujarat and Rajasthan (solar power) • Tamil Nadu (wind power)⁹⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlands and Islands (wind power) • Orkney (hydrogen and marine energy)⁹⁷

89 [London Spirits](#)

90 [Wineware](#)

91 [IIRF](#)

92 [Universities in Scotland](#)

93 [Scottish Government](#)

94 [NASSCOM](#)

95 [Scottish Development International](#)

96 [IBEE](#)

97 [Scottish Development International](#)

Government support and engagement

To strengthen trade, investment and business ties between India and Scotland, the Consulate General of India (CGI) in Edinburgh actively ensures regular interactions between Indian businesses and trade bodies, as well as with Scottish companies and chambers. Several tailored policies and frameworks have been introduced by both to attract foreign investments and expand their partnership.





India's growing appeal to foreign investors

India continues to strengthen its position as a key investment destination, attracting global capital across diverse sectors. To facilitate FDI, the Government has implemented an investor-friendly FDI policy, allowing 100% FDI under the automatic route in most sectors (airports, industrial parks, mining, IT and manufacturing), barring a few strategically important sectors (retail trading (except for single brand products), atomic energy, and gambling and betting). **This enables foreign investors to directly invest in up to 100% ownership of an Indian company, without seeking any special permission from the Government.** For certain specific sectors, FDI can be brought in after obtaining government approval (public sector banks, print media and satellites). This policy is regularly reviewed to ensure India remains a competitive and welcoming market for international investors.⁹⁸

The Government has implemented a series of reforms to attract FDI and enhance the ease of doing business. These efforts have led to a significant improvement in India's global rankings, rising from 142nd in 2014 to 63rd in the World Bank's Doing Business Report 2020, published in October 2019. This 79-place jump over five years highlights the Government's commitment to streamlining regulations, minimising bureaucratic barriers and fostering a more business-friendly environment.⁹⁹

In the Union Budget 2025, the Government has introduced further measures to strengthen India's appeal as a global investment hub. Key announcements include allowing 100% FDI in the insurance sector, enabling foreign firms to establish full ownership and expand within the GBP 201 billion industry. Additionally, the corporate tax rate has been reduced to 22%, and the tax holiday for start-ups has been extended by another five years, reinforcing India's position as a prime destination for venture capital and entrepreneurial growth.

⁹⁸ [Guide to establishing presence in India 2024](#)

⁹⁹ [Press Information Bureau](#)

Some key initiatives to attract FDI include



'Make in India'

The 'Make in India' initiative was launched in 2014 to transform India into a global hub for design and manufacturing. Its core objectives were to facilitate investment, encourage innovation and develop world-class infrastructure. In FY 2023-24, total FDI inflows amounted to GBP 55.5 billion, with equity inflows reaching GBP 34.7 billion, highlighting India's growing appeal as a global investment destination. A key pillar of the initiative has been the opening up of FDI in new sectors, including defence production, insurance, medical devices, construction and railway infrastructure.¹⁰⁰



Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme

The Government has introduced targeted initiatives to enhance India's investment appeal. The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme incentivises industries such as electronics, textiles, pharmaceuticals and automobiles, offering them financial assistance tied to measurable outcomes like increased production and incremental sales. This structured approach has successfully drawn both domestic and foreign investments.¹⁰¹ For the textile sector alone, the Government has taken numerous initiatives to promote FDI and enhance exports, including National Technical Textiles, Silk Samagra-2 Scheme, Seven Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks and more.¹⁰²



Goods and Services Tax (GST)

This was introduced by the Indian Government in 2017 to replace a fragmented and complex indirect tax regime that impacted businesses and consumers alike. It brought uniformity in the tax structure across India, eliminating the cascading effect of multiple indirect taxes levied by the central and state governments, such as excise duty, service tax and value-added tax (VAT).¹⁰³ As one nation, one tax, GST has simplified tax legislation and helped the country in attracting foreign investments.



Special economic zones (SEZ)

The SEZ policy was introduced in India in April 2000 with the intent to make SEZs drivers for economic growth. Through the development of SEZs, the Government's focus has been on generating additional economic activity, promoting exports of goods and services, encouraging foreign and domestic investment, and creating more employment opportunities along with the development of infrastructure facilities. As of 31 March 2024, 280 SEZs are operational in India. They've played a key role in enhancing India's global competitiveness, and by offering tax benefits and modernised regulatory procedures, they've attracted significant FDI. The Government allows 100% FDI in SEZs through the automatic route. SEZ units enjoy several benefits, including 100% income tax exemption on export income under Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act for the first five years.¹⁰⁴



GIFT City

The Indian Government has established the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to position India as a global financial hub, particularly through the development of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). Designed as a world-class smart city, GIFT City has been set up with the objective of attracting global players to set up units in the IFSC. It's spread across 3.6 million square metres in Gandhinagar, the capital city of Gujarat and consists of a multi-service SEZ and an exclusive domestic tariff area (DTA).¹⁰⁵

Scottish educational institutions have shown a growing interest in GIFT City, exploring opportunities for collaboration within this ecosystem. The University of Edinburgh is planning collaborations with biotech and pharmaceutical industries in Gujarat, including partnerships in fintech at GIFT City.

GIFT City offers foreign education institutions a myriad infrastructural and regulatory advantages as an offshore location for foreign education institutions. These include tax benefits such as a 100% income tax exemption for 10 out of 15 years, and employment opportunities for students with a number of reputed multinational companies, as well as social amenities such as premium hospitals, hotels, and recreational centres.

100 PIB

101 [Press Note Details: Press Information Bureau](#)

102 IBEF

103 [Press Information Bureau](#)

104 IBEF

105 [The World Inside IFSC - GIFT City](#)



Benefits of setting up operations in GIFT City¹⁰⁶

Strategic location and connectivity

GIFT City is located at a strategic location – connecting Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, the business and political capitals of Gujarat. The state is also known for its pro-business environment and investor-friendly policies, making it an attractive destination for corporations.

Business-friendly policies

GIFT City provides a range of tax benefits and exemptions to businesses, including a 100% tax exemption for 10 years, exemption from tax on money lent to IFSC units, and reduced tax rates of 4% on long-term and rupee-denominated bonds listed on IFSC exchanges.

Subsidies on other taxes and duties

GIFT City offers its units state subsidies on lease rental, PF contribution and electricity charges. Investors are further given exemption from Security Transaction Tax (STT), Commodity Transaction Tax (CTT) and stamp duty in respect of transactions carried out on IFSC exchanges.

Exemption from currency control regulations to IFSC units

Under the SEZ Act, a unit set up in IFSC is treated as non-resident. Even under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 2002, units in IFSC enjoy the benefits of non-residents under exchange control provisions.

Key initiatives to improve the ease of doing business in India include

Free Trade Agreements

India has signed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with various countries to allow exporters to access international markets at lower customs duties and other incidental taxes. FTAs with the UAE and Australia have recently been implemented. Discussions on similar FTAs with the USA, UK, and the European Union are ongoing.¹⁰⁷

The UK-India FTA discussions, which commenced in January 2022, have now relaunched, following a meeting in New Delhi on 24 February between Piyush Goyal, Indian Commerce and Industry Minister and Jonathan Reynolds, UK Business and Trade Secretary. The FTA aims to expand market access across multiple sectors. UK companies seek a lowering of Indian tariffs on major exports like Scotch whisky, electric vehicles, lamb and confectionery. Meanwhile, India aims to gain better access to the UK's service sectors, including telecommunications, legal services and financial services. The discussions will aim to boost trade, along with deepening co-operation in areas like security, education, technology and climate change.

National Single Window System (NSWS)

NSWS is a one-stop digital platform for investors and entrepreneurs to get approvals and clearances from the state and central government. It provides a single digital interface to investors and helps them identify and apply for approvals, clearances and schemes issued by the central and state governments and union territories. Businesses can apply for approvals through an integrated dashboard, which does away with the need to submit common information multiple times. With NSWS, investing in India has become easier and more seamless.¹⁰⁸

Start-up India Initiative

The initiative was launched in 2016 with the objective of supporting entrepreneurs, building a robust start-up ecosystem and transforming India into a land of job creators.¹⁰⁹ By supporting start-ups in their growth journey, the initiative encourages innovation and design. It aims to empower start-ups to scale and succeed through various schemes, such as Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), which was launched in 2021 with a corpus of GBP 93 million.¹¹⁰

Simplification of TAN, PAN and DIN:

The tax deduction and collection account number (TAN), permanent account number (PAN) and director identification number (DIN) have been integrated into a single Simplified Performa for Incorporating Company Electronically (SPICe), allowing businesses to incorporate a company seamlessly through a single web form SPICe+. Additionally, companies with a capital of up to approximately GBP 16,500 are now exempt from paying an incorporation fee.¹¹¹

Scotland as an attractive destination for foreign Investors

Scotland offers several compelling advantages for businesses looking to establish operations there, from substantial tax incentives to flexible property options. As part of the UK's capital allowance regime, announced in 2023, and worth GBP 27 billion over the next three years, companies can benefit from an effective GBP 9 billion annual tax reduction. In addition, businesses have access to a wide range of property solutions, from premium city-centre office spaces to rural sites, industrial units and port-side facilities, ensuring that every type of business can find the ideal base.

Investment and business support: The Scottish National Investment Bank supports foreign companies seeking to establish operations in Scotland,¹¹² including Indian businesses, with financial assistance through equity investments, loans and guarantees, particularly in sectors like renewable energy, life sciences and technology. Scottish Enterprise also provides tailored support to foreign investors, helping companies¹¹³ connect with local businesses in the technology and energy sectors. Additionally, GlobalScot offers a valuable network of business leaders and mentors, assisting Indian firms to navigate the regulatory landscape and access new opportunities in Scotland.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁷ [Guide to establishing presence in India 2024](#)

¹⁰⁸ [NSWS](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Startup India Initiative](#)

¹¹⁰ [PIB](#)

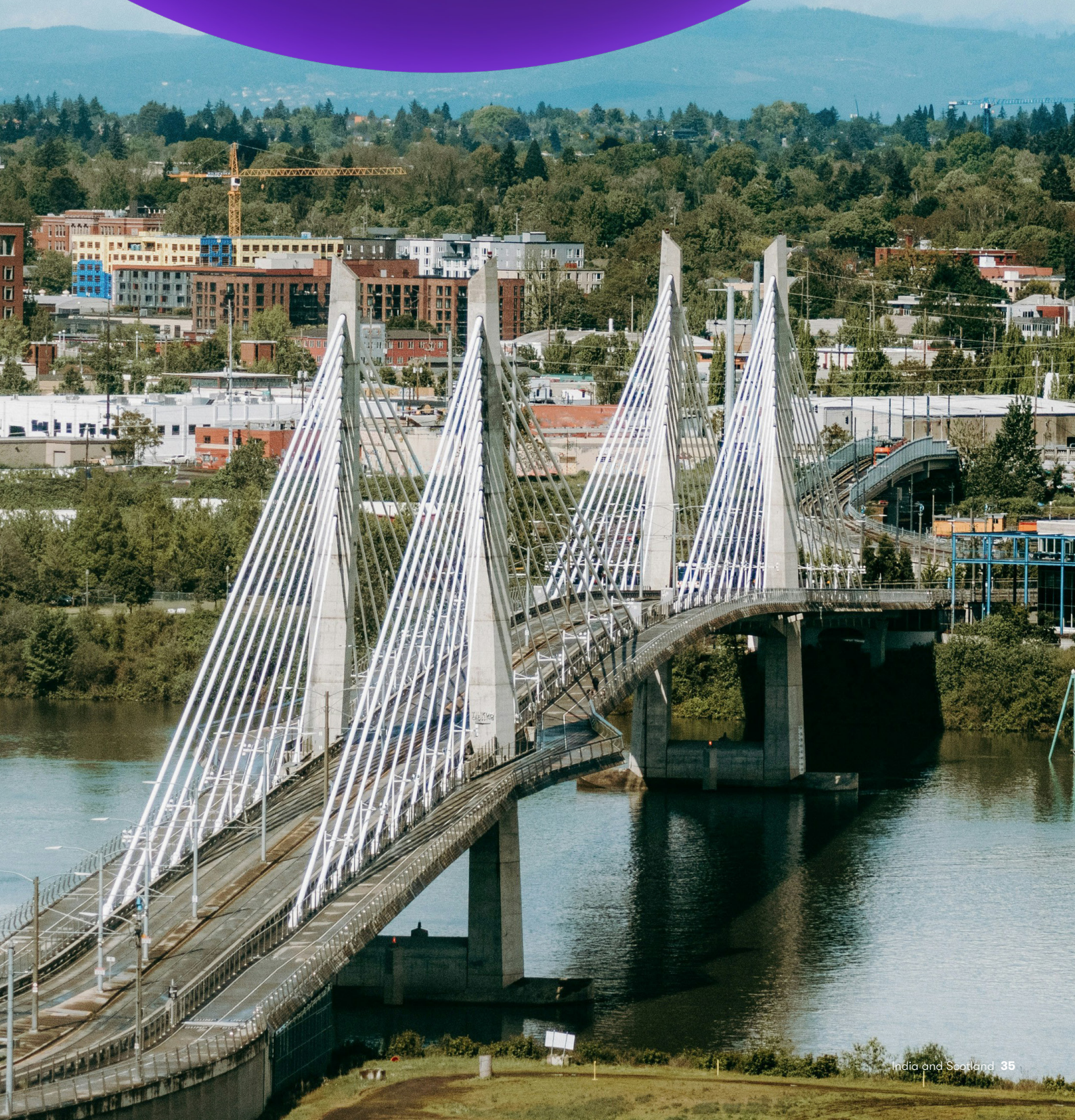
¹¹¹ [Business Friendly Reforms India's Path to Prosperity](#)

¹¹² [Scottish Bank](#)

¹¹³ [Media Centre](#)

¹¹⁴ [Gov.Scot](#)

Business outlook of the corridor



Scotland and India continue to build on their shared interest in transformative technologies. While Scotland focuses on promoting digital innovation and attracting tech talent and investment, India benefits from its tech-savvy workforce and government-backed initiatives like the National AI Strategy. Together, these developments create opportunities for collaborative efforts that promise significant gains for both.

Beyond digital innovation, both India and Scotland are working to strengthen their partnerships in semiconductors, critical minerals and sustainable supply chains. Collaborative initiatives, such as a GBP 7 million project leveraging the Scottish SHARE database to study genetic susceptibility of diabetes in India,¹¹⁵ underlines the joint commitment to address global challenges like health inequality and highlight the growing alignment between them.

Trade remains a key aspect of the Scotland-India relationship. India's position as a key economic partner for Scotland continues to strengthen, with a significant focus on sectors such as renewable energy, Scotch whisky, life sciences and technology.¹¹⁶ This relationship is bolstered by Scotland's strategic investment policies and India's growing global economic influence. Initiatives like Scotland's newly established Investment Zones in Aberdeen and Glasgow,¹¹⁷ targeting high-value industries, and the successful conclusion of the ongoing UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA)¹¹⁸ negotiations will provide an additional boost to this relationship.

The way forward

Simplified trade policies The ongoing negotiations on the UK-India FTA should be prioritised to reduce tariffs and regulatory barriers. This will significantly benefit trade across focus sectors, including Scottish whisky producers, by lowering India's 150% import tariff¹¹⁹

Sector-specific partnerships Both governments should focus on increasing policy support to further ease collaboration in high-growth sectors like renewable energy, technology and education. In particular, partnerships between Scottish and Indian firms in the fintech and data analytics space show great promise¹²⁰

Increased investment opportunities By working to streamline regulatory frameworks, both the Governments can make it easier to invest in each other's markets. In addition, facilitating business connections through trade missions, business delegations and networking events will help forge new business relationships and promote existing ones¹²¹

Boosting entrepreneurship The Scottish Government can stimulate a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem by promoting partnerships between Indian and Scottish start-ups and offering joint funding or incubation programmes. The Scottish Chambers of Commerce is already actively providing valuable support for start-ups and other businesses¹²²

Focus on academic collaborations Growing strategic partnerships between Scottish and Indian universities will help drive knowledge exchange and cutting-edge research in technology, healthcare and other sectors¹²³

115 [Scottish Development International](#)

116 [Consulate General of India](#)

117 [Aberdeen City Council](#)

118 [Gov.UK](#)

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