

CHARLES UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL STUDIES



BACHELOR THESIS

2022

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CHARLES UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL STUDIES

**An Analysis of Brexit's Implication on
India and the UK's Relationship**

Bachelor Thesis

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Study Programme: Politics, Philosophy and Economics

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Year of the defence: 2022

Declaration

1. I hereby declare that I have compiled this thesis using the listed literature and resources only.
2. I hereby declare that my thesis has not been used to gain any other academic title.
3. I fully agree to my work being used for study and scientific purposes.

In Prague on
30/07/2022

Himanshi Jhavar

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my earnest gratitude to my supervisor Professor Martin Riegl for his guidance, patience, support and kindness throughout this thesis process. I would like to thank my other professors at Charles University. And I am thankful to my family and friends for their support.

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to analyse Brexit's implication on India and the UK's relationship and to answer the research question- "Does Brexit lead to an increased cooperation between India and the UK?". This thesis will be analysing four main areas of cooperation between India and the United Kingdom post Brexit. The first part of the analysis will focus on the Economic cooperation which will include Indian and the UK Economy, Trade Before Brexit, Volume of Trade and Investment, Financial Cooperation, Free Trade Agreement and COVID 19. The second part of the analysis will focus on the Defence Cooperation which will include Indo-Pacific Tilt, Maritime Cooperation, Defence and International Security Partnership and Cyber Security & Counter Terrorism. The third part of the analysis will focus on Migration and Mobility Partnership which will include Youth Professionals Scheme, Social Security Agreement and Prevention & Combatting of Illegal Migration. The fourth part of the analysis will focus on the Climate Partnership which will include COP26, Green Grids Initiative - Vision: One Sun One World One Grid, Clean Green Initiative and Infrastructure for Resilient Island States Initiative. With these above mentioned analysis I will be able to understand Brexit's implication on India and UK's relationship and if Brexit has led to an increased cooperation between the two nations or not.

Keywords: India, the UK, Brexit, Analysis, Cooperation, Roadmap 2030, Foreign Policy.

Research Question: Does Brexit lead to an increased cooperation between India and the UK?

Title: An Analysis of Brexit's Implication on India and the UK's Relationship.

Word Count: 71,692 characters with space

Bachelor Thesis Proposal

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Date: 12-01-2022



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Specialisation: PPE

Defense Planned: June 2022

Proposed Topic: An Analysis of Brexit's Implication on India and the UK's Relationship

Registered in SIS: Yes/NO

Date of registration:

Topic Characteristics: The relation between India and the UK goes back to mid 1800s when Britain ruled over India but eventually after a long struggle India gained its independence in 1947. Ever since that a lot of things have changed for both the countries individually and especially the cooperation between both the countries. After independence India has always maintained a cordial relation with the UK and both countries have benefitted from it in numerous fields. Now that the United Kingdom has left the European Union, India's dynamics ought to change towards the UK and I believe now is the right time to analyse the implications of Brexit on India and UK's relation. India and the UK have developed a "Roadmap 2030", it was launched in May 2021. This partnership focuses on various aspects to enhance and strengthen the post Brexit relationship of India & UK. I will be analysing 4 fields which will show the increased cooperation between the two nations post Brexit; 1.) Economic Cooperation with the sub categories of a.) Volume of Trade & Investment and b.) Financial Cooperation, 2.) Defence Cooperation, 3.) Migration and Mobility and 4.) Climate Partnership.

Research Question: Does Brexit lead to an increased cooperation between India and the UK?

Methodology: *The first field will be Economic Cooperation* (a. Volume of Trade and Investment b. Financial Cooperation), in this I will use quantitative method to measure these aspects. In this I will measure the various aspects like exports and imports between both the countries, G2G bilateral framework, plan to double the trade value of UK and India by 2030, trade partnerships, Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, sustainable infrastructure projects, strengthen and boost entrepreneurial connections, establishments of small and medium scale industries and investment in both the countries, UK-India global innovation partnership, what trade barriers are removed, easy access of doing business in either of the countries, financial cooperation to ease and increase financial services and trade between them, etc. I will also study the Early Harvest Agreement & Enhanced Trade Partnership between the two countries. They will also work together for India's G20 Presidency in 2023.

The second field will be Defence Cooperation, in this I will use qualitative method to explain these aspects. In this I will study how the two countries will focus on developing a “free, open and secure Indo-Pacific region”, collaboration in cyber security, handling terrorism, both countries will focus on cooperating under the “Defence and International Security Partnership” which was first agreed in 2015, dealing with the threats given posed by China, both the countries will enhance their cooperation in the maritime zone via a partnership in the Western Indian Ocean, along with a new “Maritime Dialogue, Grey and Dark Shipping information sharing and mechanisms for operational co-ordination”. I will also focus on various partnerships between the two countries like “Strategic Collaborative Partnership on research, innovation, technology and industry”, “UK- India Defence Technology and Industrial Capability Cooperation MoU”, “Combat Air collaboration”.

The third field will be Migration and Mobility, in this I will use qualitative method to explain these aspects. In this I will focus on the “Migration and Mobility” partnership for students and professionals, UK’s new skills based immigration policy which is set to done by April 2022, an agreement called “Social Security Agreement” which will help Indian get an exclusion from social security contributions in the UK, “Young Professionals Scheme” which will help graduates of either country to work and live in the country for 2 years and upto 3000 young professional can avail employment in the UK, India will help to deport the illegal migrants residing in the UK, there will also be a launch of “Young Entrepreneurship Forum” between the two countries.

The fourth and last field will be Climate Partnership, in this I will use qualitative method to explain these aspects. In this I will focus how both countries work together on global climate action, at COP26 both the countries launched an initiative called “Global Green Grids” which help to achieve India’s ‘One Sun, One World, One Grid’ vision which gives emphases on establish a transnational electricity grid to supply solar power across the world, both the countries will also focus on “development of offshore wind energy and electric vehicles” and both countries will also “co-chair the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure”, both the countries will work towards reducing emission and they will also focus on UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, there will also be an enhancement of “Ministerial Energy Dialogue” and “Joint Working Groups on Climate, Power and Renewables”.

Outline:

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 - a. Volume of Trade and Investment
 - b. Defence Relations
3. Defence Cooperation
4. Migration & Mobility
5. Climate Partnership
6. Conclusions
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1. Introduction

India and the United Kingdom share a deep history of colonial rule. As the Great Britain entered India during the mid-1700s and colonised India for almost 200 years. This colonisation was termed as ‘British Raj’ / ‘Angrezi Shasan’ which literally means ‘British Rule’ in English. During the time of colonisation India faced numerous hardships as the British attacked and ruthlessly exploited India and its citizens. After thousands of freedom rallies and protests India gained its independence in 1947. The partition resulted in a formation of a separate country Pakistan and then later Bangladesh. India was once one of the richest countries in the world but after its independence in 1947, the country was left with almost nothing and was considered amongst one of the poorest countries. Well, a lot of things have changed over the years and India has emerged as one of the fastest and largest developing economies in the world. India is all set to celebrate its 75th year of independence on 15th August 2022. Since its independence both the nations have maintained very cordial relations with each other, and the colonial past did not affect their political or economic relations and over the years both countries have benefitted from this relationship.

In 2016 with a motion of voting the United Kingdom decided to leave the European Union which is popularly known as Brexit. It is one of the most talked about political situations of the 21st century as it will change the political and economic situation of the UK with other countries. India and the UK’s dynamics ought to change towards each other and I believe now is the right time to analyse the implications of Brexit on India and UK’s relation. After almost five years since the referendum India and the UK are on a path to develop a ‘Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’ with each other. It was delayed because UK and EU were not able to finalise the negotiations and then due to COVID 19. Last year in May 2021, the governments of India and UK launched a ‘Roadmap 2030’ a partnership which will focus on various aspects to enhance and strengthen the post Brexit relationship of India and UK. For my bachelor’s thesis I will be analysing Brexit’s implication on India and UK’s relationship. With this analysis I will be able to answer my research question which is- “Does Brexit lead to an increased cooperation between India and the UK?” For analysing these implications, I will be studying the Roadmap 2030 and the four main areas of cooperation under this plan; Economic, Defence, Migration & Mobility and Climate.

The structure of this thesis will be as follows: First, I will be analysing the Economic Cooperation between India and UK under which the categories of the analysis will be Indian and the UK Economy, Trade Before Brexit, Volume of Trade and Investment, Financial Cooperation, Free Trade Agreement and COVID 19. Second, I will be analysing the Defence Cooperation between India and UK under which the categories of the analysis will be Indo-Pacific Tilt, Maritime Cooperation, Defence and International Security Partnership and Cybersecurity & Counterterrorism. Third, I will be analysing the Migration and Mobility Partnership between India and UK under which the categories of the analysis will be Youth Professionals Scheme, Social Security Agreement and Prevention & Combatting of Illegal Migration. Fourth, I will be analysing the Climate Partnership between India and UK under which the categories of the analysis will be COP26, Green Grids Initiative, Clean Green Initiative and Infrastructure for Resilient Island States Initiative. And then I will be presenting my conclusion for analysing the implications of Brexit on India and UK's relationship and answer the research question whether Brexit has led to an increased cooperation between India and the UK or not.

2. Methodology

In this thesis I will be using the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to analyse Brexit's implication on India and the UK's relationship. In this thesis I will be using primary as well as secondary sources of information. Primary sources mainly include the official documents from the Governments of India and the United Kingdom and their respective Ministry of External Affairs. Secondary sources include articles, essays and newspaper articles. I will be using quantitative methods to analyse the economic cooperation between India and the United Kingdom. I will analyse the increase in economic cooperation between the two countries prior to Brexit and post Brexit by considering the volume of trade and investment, the financial cooperation, the number of Indian origin companies and their economic contribution and a new free trade agreement. I will be using qualitative methods to analyse the defence cooperation, migration and mobility partnership and climate partnership respectively. I will analyse the increase in defence cooperation between the two countries prior to Brexit and post Brexit by considering the new defence initiatives, Indo-Pacific tilt and the cooperation in maritime zone. I will analyse the increase in migration and mobility partnership between the two countries prior to Brexit and post Brexit by considering the new immigration policies, visa initiative and illegal migrations. I will analyse the increase in climate partnership between the two countries prior to Brexit and post Brexit by considering the new climate schemes, cooperation at COP26, sustainable financing and investments. By doing these analysis I will be able to understand the increase in cooperation between India and the UK post Brexit. These areas of cooperation between India and the United Kingdom were presented in the Roadmap 2030 which was launched in May 2021 for India and the UK's future relationship post Brexit. Since this vision of Roadmap 2030 is fairly new as it was launched just over a year ago, so the primary data and information has been gathered via the documents and press releases from the Governments of India and the UK's websites and secondary data and information is gathered from newspaper articles, essays and articles. Some of the new initiatives, schemes, policies, etc are still developing and negotiations are being carried out such as the Free Trade Agreement or the Social Security Agreement. With the help of these sources, I will be able to answer my research question which is- does Brexit lead to an increased cooperation between India and the UK?

3. Economic Cooperation

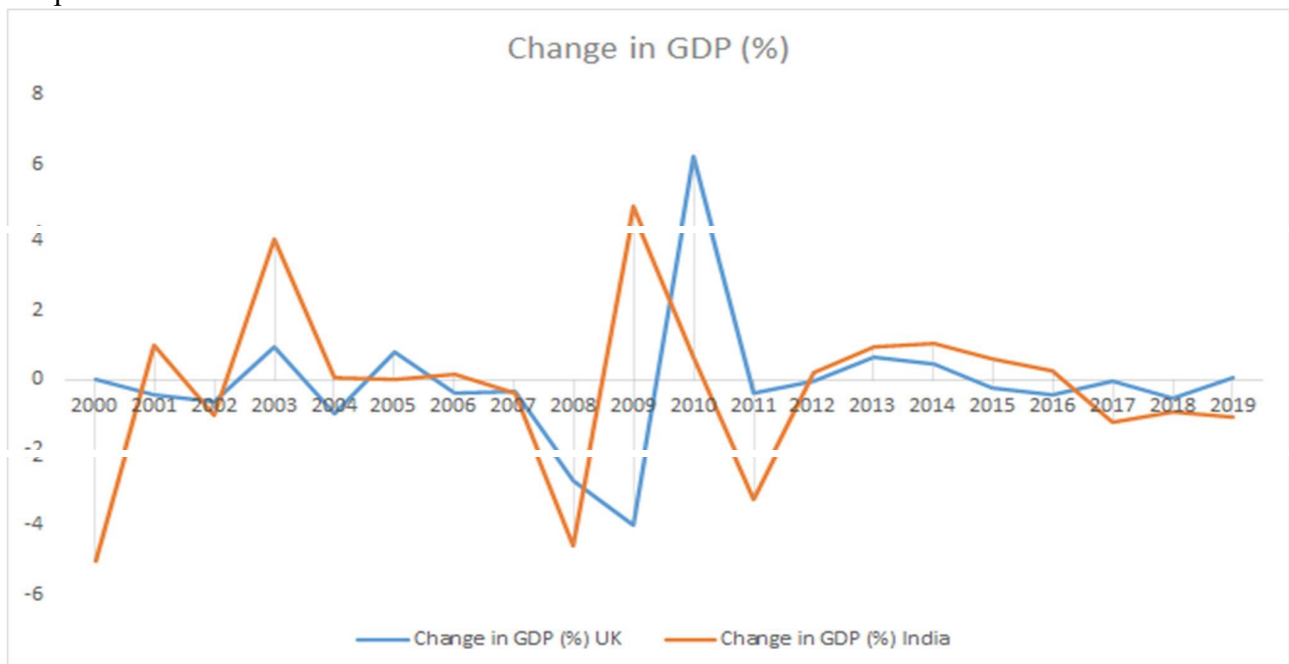
In this first part, I will analyse the Economic Cooperation between India and the UK. In this world of globalisation and interdependence, economic cooperation is an important aspect between countries. India no doubt is emerging as one of the ‘fastest moving economies’ in the belt of developing countries, as per the National Statistical Office, “the estimated annual GDP growth rate in the year 2021/2022 was 8.7%” (the National Statistical Office of the Government of India, 2022). While the UK is one of the most significant developed economies in the world. Brexit will have a certain level of impact on the economies of many countries and India is no exception. With the new foreign policies and trade agreements, especially the FTA underway Brexit could be a start of new era between India and the UK. Although India has an important ‘economic and strategic partnership’ with the European Union. According to Sudip Paul and Suvayan Neogi, “EU holds 11.23 % and 16.87 % share in India’s total imports and exports respectively as of 2015” (Sudip Paul and Suvayan Neogi, 2018). India and the EU have once again started the negotiations on FTA in June 2022, last negotiation was held in 2013. It is a right time for India to have separate FTAs with the EU and the UK respectively as it will give India the opportunity to have access in the EU market as well as in the UK market and same goes for the EU and the UK as they will have access to India’s ever-expanding market.

Leaders of the countries are working effectively to strengthen the economic ties and successfully implement the vision of Roadmap 2030. According to Grant Thornton, “as of 2020 there are 842 Indian companies operating in the UK, the combined turnover was approximately £41.2 billion and £48 billion in 2020 and 2019 respectively. The combined corporation tax paid by these companies were £462 million in 2020 and £684 million in 2019. Out of 842 companies 72 of them have revenue growth of at least 10% with a combined turnover of £3.8 billion with 40% of average revenue growth and all companies combined have given employment to 116,046 people. 54% of these companies are located in London and top sectors include technology & telecoms, pharmaceuticals & chemicals and engineering & manufacturing” (Grant Thornton’s India meets Britain Tracker 2020). With the progressive Roadmap 2030 underway, I shall further analyse the economic ties between India and the UK post Brexit and understand if there is an increased corporation between the two nations or not. I will analyse the following sub-topics; Indian and the UK Economy, Trade Before Brexit, Volume of Trade and Investment, Financial Cooperation, Free Trade Agreement and COVID 19.

3.1 Indian and the UK Economy

As any other country India and the UK were hit hard by the recession of 2007-2008 and saw a massive decline in their respective GDPs. India introduced Demonetisation and Goods & Service Tax in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Although both initiatives were introduced to boost the Indian economy but instead saw a decline. Low to middle-income households were affected the most with these policies as there was a sudden increase in the prices and expenses rose. For example, the rent in major cities like New Delhi and Mumbai went up, prices of food supplies and raw material went up, services became expensive, a lot of daily wage workers lost their jobs as many small and medium scale enterprises were closed. The UK has always been a strong and developed economy but along with the transition process of Brexit came the lockdowns as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic and the country saw its first recession after 2007-2008. The following graph represents side by side how India and the UK's GDP has seen ups and downs since 2000 till 2019. One can see that after 2016, GDP of both the nations have remained very low it is considered to be the effects of above mentioned polices and referendum plus other issues like unemployment.

Graph 1 India and the UK's GDP 2000-2019



Source: World Bank, 2020.

3.2 Trade Before Brexit

According to the World Bank, “the UK is fifth largest economy with a GDP of \$2.67 trillion and India is sixth largest economy with a GDP of \$2.66 trillion” (the World Bank 2021). A significant and notable trade partnership between India and the UK began during the early years of 2000s. According to David Scott, “under the premierships of Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and David Cameron, the UK pursued a much stronger and increasingly economics-orientated relationship with India” (David Scott, 2017). Over the years India has been considered as an untapped market with immense opportunity and a lot to offer. Before Brexit the trade between India and the UK saw a slight increase specifically between 2006 to 2016. According to the data provided by Harjeet Singh, “the volume of trade during 2006 to 2016 was growing with compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.2% and there were high CAGR of Indian exports to the UK and low CAGR of India’s imports from the UK may indicate a strong preference for Indian goods in the UK” (Harjeet Singh, 2018). Even though there were some positive outcomes like the above mentioned in the bilateral trade between India and the UK during those times, but it was not completely successful as India’s bilateral trade with other nations like the United States, the United Arab Emirates, China, or Saudi Arabia yielded much higher success with a better compound annual growth in terms of trade in-comparison to India and the UK. According to the data provided by Harjeet Singh, “India’s import from the UK were decreased from 2.3 % in 2006 to 1.6 % in 2015 whereas the share of UK in India’s export decreased as it was 4.4 % in 2006 and in 2015 it went 3.3 %” (Harjeet Singh, 2018).

The decline in trade between India and the UK could be because of the Free Trade Agreement signed between India and ASEAN in 2009 while giving more emphasis on India’s Look East Policy. There are many Indian companies like Tata Motors and Infosys which are situated in the UK as for them the UK has always been an unofficial base camp to have an easy access and entry in the European market but with Brexit things will certainly change. Many positive changes can come with Brexit which will be beneficial for India such as a Free Trade Agreement between India and the UK which will reduce tariffs, trade barriers, easy flow of goods and services with more opportunities for investment and in the turn increased economic growth for both the nations.

3.3 Volume of Trade and Investment

“The trade in 2019 was £23.3 billion and in 2020 India was the UK’s 15th largest trading partner while the trade fell to £18.3 billion in 2020 due to COVID 19” (UK-India Free Trade Agreement The UK’s Strategic Approach, 2022: pg38). As of 2021, in the UK the second biggest foreign direct investment was received from India while in India the sixth biggest foreign direct investment was received from the UK. The ‘Enhanced Trade Partnership’ between the two nations was launched last year in 2021 which aims to ‘double the bilateral trade by 2030’. Enhanced Trade Partnership will lead to a more thorough and well formulated Free Trade Agreement. As of now India is considered to be the largest country both in terms of market and population with which the UK will negotiate trade and investment partnership post Brexit. This partnership will develop multiple possibilities for Indian and UK businesses to invest in the other country respectively. According to a press release, “the UK is expected to receive new Indian investments worth £533 million which will create thousands of jobs mainly in health and tech sectors. Out of the investment mentioned above £200 million will be used to support low carbon growth. Whereas British businesses are expected to invest £446 million to secure new export deals with India” (Government of the UK, 2021).

Another initiative called ‘Global Innovation Partnership’ was launched in 2021 between the two nations. This project will work for the climate innovation and sustainable development goals in specific developing nations and both the nations will finance it. In 2018, a large-scale fund programme called ‘UK-India Green Growth Equity Fund’ was launched by India, it will work and invest towards renewable energy and green infrastructure in India. Initially India and UK invested around £120 million each for this programme since then this fund has received many investments. Recently, “a \$1.2 billion private and public investment package which will work towards green and innovate tech projects and renewable energy in India” (the Government of the UK, 2021). ‘Climate Finance Leadership Initiative India Partnership’ was subsequently launched by the UK for enhancing the investment in sustainable ventures and mobilising private capital in India. In 2020, BP a British based multinational company invested \$70 million in Green Growth Equity Fund.

3.4 Financial Cooperation

To strengthen the financial cooperation between the two nations a new dialogue called ‘India-UK Financial Markets Dialogue’ took place its first annual meeting in July 2021. It focused on the ways to strengthen the collaboration of financial sector and infrastructure. The main strategic outcome of this dialogue was UK’s collaboration in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City in India which will be the country’s first International Financial Services Centre. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City popularly known as GIFT CITY is a new business locality which is being constructed in the state of Gujarat in India. It comes under Special Economic Zone as per SEZ Act 2005 of India. The UK will be investing in this project as many UK based banks like HSBC and Standard Chartered will be operating from this centre and the UK’s financial and banking system will gain benefits from this financial centre. It will not only create millions of jobs for both low skilled and high skilled workers but will also bring in foreign investment to India from the UK and build a national infrastructure pipeline in India. According to Mr. Alex Ellis, “the 2030 Roadmap agreed by Prime Ministers Modi and Johnson aims for a transformation of the UK-India relationship, especially as we look to build back better from Covid-19 and the first Financial Markets Dialogue held today will strengthen links on financial services and create new opportunities for UK and Indian business” (British High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis, 2021).

The ‘11th UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue’ which happened in September 2021 focused on the future of increasing financial cooperation between India and the UK. This dialogue focused on various aspects of cooperation out of which the following were given more emphasis for example the G20 summit (India will be holding the Presidency of G20 Summit 2023 in India), sustainable financing, recovery from the pandemic, cross border payments/trades/investments, COP26, and collaborating on the Enhanced Trade Partnership and the future negotiation of Free Trade Agreement. Financial cooperation on cross border payments has been agreed by both the nations. RuPay Cards which were launched in India about ten years ago are set for an international launch in the UK this will enhance cross border payments and easy transactions between the two countries.

3.5 Free Trade Agreement

The Free Trade Agreement between India and the UK has been in talks for the longest time and now in January 2022 the officials of both the nations finally initiated the negotiations for the FTA which will lead to a growth of bilateral trade and investment. Till now there have been four meetings for the negotiations out of which one meeting took place during the official visit of PM Johnson in India. For the UK, India is an important economy in the Indo Pacific hub and with Roadmap 2030 it is the right time to make bilateral relationship strong between the two countries and by 2030 the trade is expected to be doubled between the two nations. “It is estimated that around 40% of world’s GDP and some of the top emerging economies are in the Indo-Pacific region” (The Integrated Review of Security Defence Development and Foreign Policy, 2021: pg66). FTA with India will have an added advantage for the UK as the country already has FTAs with Australia and New Zealand and some other countries in the region. A statement on India and the FTA by PM Johnson, “in the decade ahead, with the help of the new Partnership and a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, we will double the value of our trading partnership with India and take the relationship between our two countries to new highs” (Prime Minister Johnson, Government of the UK, 2021). With the announcement of the Enhanced Trade Partnership the many rounds of negotiation for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement is well on its way with the main broad aim of removing trade barriers, reducing tariffs and doubling India-UK trade by 2030. Before FTA is finalised between India and UK there will be an ‘Early Harvest Agreement’ between them which will be aiming for a coverage of selective goods and services for tariff liberalisation.

The benefits of the FTA between India and the UK according to the document published by department of international trade of the UK, “exports from the UK to India and exports from India to the UK will become simple and cheap; with low tariffs and reduction in non-tariff measures; the small and medium enterprises in India and UK are expected to have the most advantage from FTA with an ease of import and export between nations; there will be an increased cooperation and opportunities of investment in the service sector especially in India by the UK; possibility of reduction in high tariff rates of India; the online economy of India is expected to reach a trillion dollar by 2025 with this FTA both nations will get a chance to invest in innovation such as in AI, cybersecurity, fin-tech and technology; with more investment in different industries in the coming years millions of jobs will be created in both nations” (Department for International Trade of the UK Government, 2021).

China is a renowned supplier of affordable manufactured goods and major economies are dependent on China for supplies such as machineries, electronics, apparels, etc but with the current global situation many countries are trying to reduce this dependency on China. Similarly, it is believed that the UK is trying to reduce such dependency on China and India can benefit from this as India can tap such areas of supplies to the UK and gain profit from it. As the need of the hour is a comprehensive deal benefitting both the nations the FTA is expected to bring long-term economic benefits for both nations. The deadline for final draft of negotiations from both the sides is set for the end of October but many officials believe that the deadline is not enough to create such thorough and rightly negotiated agreement in such a short duration. With the resignation of Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the officials have confirmed that as of now the resignation won't affect the Free Trade Agreement and everything is going by the official plan between the two countries.

3.6 COVID 19

The global pandemic has undoubtedly affected everyone to a certain degree as many families lost their loved ones and almost every economy in the world has seen a fall in the past two years. Unemployment was a major outcome of the pandemic during the last two years as many people were let go from their companies and people found it difficult to find a job, which made the level of unemployment even higher, and the inflation was another aspect which troubled many economies. The pandemic resulted in stagflation as major economies saw slow growth rates, rise in prices as well as high unemployment. India and the UK also suffered during this period especially in India as unemployment and inflation was at an extremely high rate. Both the nations were already dealing with aftereffects of the policies and referendum which were introduced earlier which resulted in the fall of their respective GDPs plus unemployment and to top it off came the pandemic which intensified the situation. While both countries are on the path of economic recovery and solving the issue of unemployment there is hope that economic cooperation between the two under the Roadmap 2030 will be beneficial in this recovery process.

During those difficult times of the pandemic when a vaccine was the only hope to save the masses from this virus many countries started developing vaccines like the United States and Russia. The India and the UK projected their cooperation and came together to develop one of the covid vaccines. The vaccine was developed by the collaboration of Serum Institute of India, Oxford University and AstraZeneca. The vaccine is called 'COVISHIELD' and it was approved for emergency usage to treat the virus and was exported to many other countries. The successful creation of this vaccine shows that India and the UK are taking the strategic partnership and cooperation seriously and leading to a path of many more future successful initiatives. Bharat Biotech with Indian Council of Medical Research created 'COVAXIN' which was exclusively made in India. These vaccines saved millions of lives but there is no doubt that these companies earned millions in profit and revenue by creating this antidote.

4. Defence Cooperation

In this second part, I will analyse the Defence Cooperation between India and the UK. Under the Roadmap 2030 Defence Cooperation was one of the main themes to enhance the partnership between the two nations. With the current global atmosphere having a strong defence partnership is a must to protect one's own country or to provide protection to another country against destructive defence and security threats. In the past India and the UK have maintained a good relationship in terms of defence but with this comprehensive strategic partnership and foreign policy of the UK post Brexit is chance for both the nations to take their bilateral relations to the next stage. According to Ms. Liz Truss, "closer defence and security partnerships between the UK and India underpin deeper economic ties and make both countries, as well as the wider region, safer. We need to protect our sea and trade routes and, operating from a position of strength, be hard-headed in defending our interests and challenging unfair practices" (Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, Government of the UK, 2021).

India receives majority of its arms from Russia, France and the US but in the last few years India's arms import from Russia has decreased and arms import from France has increased. According to Alexandra Kuimova, Siemon Wezeman and Pieter Wezeman, "India's imports of Russian arms dropped by 47% between 2012-16 (69%) and 2017-21 (46%) whereas India's arms imports from France increased more than tenfold, making it India's second largest arms supplier in 2017-21" (Alexandra Kuimova, Siemon Wezeman and Pieter Wezeman, 2022). Whereas the UK's share in arm imports in India is estimated to be 2% to 3% in the past years which is relatively low. Earlier most of the arms and ammunition deals between India and other nations including the UK were done through commercial sales i.e., via third party but not through the government or foreign ministry itself and these commercial sales led to some level of corruption. Recently the government has changed its ways of importing arms as they now do the imports government to government with no third party involved in between.

Post Brexit this new transaction style by the Indian government will benefit the British government. The UK will issue India an ‘Open General Export License’ which will decrease the bureaucratic procedure and will help to gain these defence procurements in relatively short time frame. This license put forwards the UK’s keen interest in making a strong presence in the Indo-Pacific region as India is the first nation to whom the UK will issue this licence. I shall further discuss the important outcomes of the defence cooperation between India and the UK which are as followed; Indo-Pacific Tilt, Defence and International Security Partnership, Maritime Cooperation and Cyber Security and Counter Terrorism.

4.1 Indo-Pacific Tilt

In 2021, the UK launched its ‘Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy’ under which the UK introduced an initiative called ‘Indo-Pacific Tilt’. It is a strategic and bilateral partnership with the countries in the Indo-Pacific region mainly starting from India and ending with New Zealand. Some of the top emerging economies are in the Indo-Pacific region such as India, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, etc. According to the statement by the UK in the Integrated Review 2021, “the Indo-Pacific region matters to the UK: it is critical to our economy, our security and our global ambition to support open societies while aiming to strengthen and enhance economy, security and value as well as to keep a free and open Indo-Pacific region” (Integrated Review 2021: pg66). Other European countries who are developing strong Indo-Pacific strategic partnership are France, Germany and the Netherlands. “The UK will be the European Partner with the broadest and most integrated presence in the Indo-Pacific with bilateral and multilateral partnerships in the region, to cooperate and work with ASEAN, Five Power Defence Arrangements, Pacific Island Forum and India” (Integrated Review 2021, pg66). India has been considered to be an important strategic partner under the Indo-Pacific tilt for the UK.

The geopolitical situation has changed between India and the UK since Brexit. India's foe China and Pakistan have always been a concern for India's defence and security. With Brexit India has received some cooperation from the UK against China and Pakistan for example UK took a stand in a motion at the UN against Pakistan's way of handling terrorism financing and not being able to prevent it and China's image as an authoritative state in the eyes of the UK and how it is a 'biggest state-based threat' to the UK's economic security. The situation between UK, China and India can get a little complexed because UK and China have strong investment and economic ties. India can gain advantage from a strong Indo-Pacific tilt. India's membership in the The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue makes its role in the Indo-Pacific tilt even more pivotal as it will bring new foreign policy and defence commitments by building a strong presence. This tilt will also give India a chance to address the new arising geopolitical and security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region and India's naval capabilities and diplomatic strategies in the Indian Ocean.

In October 2021, Carrier Strike was brought to Mumbai, India and later was deployed in the Bay of Bengal (Indian Ocean) as one of the first acts in the Indo-Pacific tilt. The Foreign Secretary Truss was also present during this naval display in India. Carrier Strike is considered to be one of the finest and most powerful naval abilities of Britain. According to Mr. Ben Wallace, "A strengthened partnership with India is a key pillar of the UK's tilt to the Indo-Pacific. Our Carrier Strike group visit represents an important step towards our goal of establishing a maritime partnership with India in support of mutual security objectives in the Indian Ocean" (Defence Secretary of UK Ben Wallace, 2021). Even the Ambassador of Kingdom of the Netherlands to India, Nepal and Bhutan were present at the site to show his support towards the Indo-Pacific tilt and he believes that India has a crucial role in this region and both the countries (India & Netherlands) share similar ideologies on these matters. The Carrier's deployment is considered to be UK's will to amplify diplomatic and security relations with India in the Indo-Pacific region.

4.2 Maritime Cooperation

The first ‘Maritime Dialogue’ between India and the UK was virtually held in October 2021 and primary focus of the dialogue was to create strong association in the maritime and the Indo-Pacific region. While the main aim of maritime cooperation is related to the Indo-Pacific tilt but it will also encourage liberty to navigate and provide access in the Western Indian Ocean as well. The Maritime Dialogue was the last official meeting before the Carrier Strike Group was deployed in Bay of Bengal on 23 October 2021. This partnership also focuses on strengthening joint military exercises by both the nations. Recently in July 2022, the National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Stephen Lovegrove of India and UK respectively held a diplomatic meeting in New Delhi to further discuss the Maritime and regional security and defence cooperation while India emphasised on ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ initiative. This visit took place roughly after three months since the high-profile official visit of PM Johnson to India.

4.3 Defence and International Security Partnership

‘Defence and International Security Partnership’ was first launched in 2015 between India and the UK there was minor progress in partnership albeit rather slowly. In the Roadmap 2030 Defence and International Security Partnership has been highlighted again for defence cooperation. This partnership will give the UK a chance to increase its share in the defence market of India and support India’s growing domestic defence industry. During the official visit to India (PM Johnson in April 2022) said, “Our new and expanded Defence and Security Partnership will enable India to strengthen its own domestic defence industry as well as protecting vital shared interests in the Indo-Pacific”. There also has been a formulation of ‘Joint Working Group’ on ‘India-UK Electric Propulsion Capability Partnership’. According to the joint statement by India and the UK , “a letter of arrangement has been finalised between the UK’s Defence Science & Technology Laboratory and India's Defence Research & Development Organisation to help deliver advanced security capabilities through joint-research, co-design, co-development and joint production of defence technology and systems particularly in key and emerging military technologies” (the Ministry of External Affairs India, 2022).

According to the joint statement by the UK and India, “cooperation in key areas of strategic collaboration includes Modern Fighter Aircraft and Jet Engine Advanced Core Technology and both sides agreed to work bilaterally and with key partner countries to facilitate highest level access to technology to Indian industry” (the Ministry of External Affairs India, 2022). India’s Make in India scheme focuses on developing and manufacturing goods domestically in India and encourages other nations to co-manufacture their goods in India. The governments of both the nations are working together to carry out plans for a joint venture to manufacture equipments, systems and spare parts, etc in India under the Make In India scheme.

4.4 Cybersecurity and Counterterrorism

In May 2021, both the countries collaborated on an ‘Enhanced Cyber Security Partnership’. This partnership will primarily be focusing on governance in resilient cyber space. Both the countries will work towards handling cybercrime and to focus on a safe and responsible state behaviour in cyberspace. India and the UK will work in collaboration with information technology industries and other big industries for a safe and protective online platform for the users. According to a cyber joint statement by India and the UK, “we draw attention to the norms prohibiting the use of cyber tools to intentionally damage or impair critical infrastructure and the obligation of states to respond to appropriate requests to mitigate malicious ICT activity aimed at the critical infrastructure of another state emanating from their territory” (Government of the UK, 2022). While in the past India has faced terrorist attacks mostly in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and North East India. Pakistan and China are to be blamed for such attacks in India. The UK time and again have criticised such attacks and threats by Pakistan and China in the Indian territory. According to a joint statement released by India and the UK stated, “India and UK expressed satisfaction on the ongoing cooperation through the Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism, including with regard to information and intelligence sharing on terror entities and individuals and within this framework, they agreed to constitute a sub-group on countering extremism to further enhance cooperation between the two sides in ensuring that all possible actions are taken against groups and individuals based in or operating out of either country, seeking to incite violent extremism and terrorism and who are involved in financing such activities” (the Ministry of External Affairs India, 2022). India and the UK are against any acts related to terrorism and have zero tolerance and strongly condemn them.

5. Migration & Mobility Partnership

In this third part, I will analyse the Migration and Mobility Partnership between India and the UK. Migration mostly occurs from developing countries to developed countries. There are many reasons people migrate across international borders in search for better social and economic opportunities. Whether it be for high standards of living, to study at world class universities, escaping poverty, unemployment, unstable governance, human rights violation or even climate change. According to the data provided by International Organisation of Migration, “as of the year 2020 there were 281 million international migrants living in different countries around the world, this figure of 281 million international migrant contributes to 3.6% of the total global population, the remittance transferred by migrants and diaspora globally in the year 2020 were estimated to be USD 702 billion” (International Organisation of Migration, 2021). There are millions of Non-Residential Indians (NRIs) settled in many major countries like the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Mauritius, South Africa.

The United Kingdom has been a popular destination for Indians to migrate and the Indian diaspora can be found across the UK. Indians migrate to the UK mainly for higher studies and employability as skilled workers. According to Carlos Vargas-Silva and Cinzia Rienzo, “the UK has around 9.5 million migrants in total as of 2019 and 1.5 million are estimated to be Indian diaspora in Britain” (Carlos Vargas-Silva and Cinzia Rienzo, 2020) . India and the UK’s Migration and Mobility Partnership was launched in 2021. This partnership will bring much needed changes in the UK’s immigration policies and rules towards Indian nationals which will benefit both the countries. The important outcomes of this partnership are ‘Youth Professionals Scheme’, ‘Social Security Agreement’ and ‘Prevention and Combatting of Illegal Migration’. The Young Professionals Scheme primarily focuses on students and young professionals in the age category of 18 to 30 year olds. The Social Security Agreement has a high possibility of being signed as multiple meetings are being held to finalise this agreement between the two countries.

Table 1 Migrants in the UK

Country of Birth			Nationality		
Country	Estimate	Confidence Interval (±)	Country	Estimate	Confidence Interval (±)
India	896	52	Poland	696	46
Poland	682	46	India	370	34
Pakistan	456	37	Republic of Ireland	370	34
Republic of Ireland	412	35	Italy	342	32
Germany	347	32	Romania	342	32

Source: Office for National Statistics - Annual Population Survey (APS)

The table above represents the population of foreigners who are born or have a nationality of a different country but are currently residing in the UK as of June 2021. With the given data one can analyse that India is the number one country of birth for non-UK population residing in the UK and the second amongst non-UK population with a different nationality. Earlier Poland was the top country of origin for migrants in Britain but in the last few years population of Polish nationals has decreased as around 100,000 of them left the UK, which made India the top country of birth for migrants in Britain. The UK has seen a slight decline in EU born migrants who were residing in the UK as of June 2021. In the UK, Indian born migrants are usually classified under the high skilled occupation compared to other EU member state born nationals. I shall discuss Youth Professionals Scheme, Social Security Agreement and Prevention and Combatting of Illegal Migration in detail in the following pages and analyse how these outcomes and new visa policies under the Migrations and Mobility Partnership will benefit India and the UK in long run with their shared cooperation.

5.1 Youth Professionals Scheme

Youth Professional Scheme was launched in 2021 and is considered to be a brand-new visa category launched in collaboration by the governments of India and the UK. This scheme caters Indian citizens who are between 18 to 30 years of age while the eligibility criteria being a higher educational degree and/or relevant professional experience with proficient written and oral English language ability. The scheme will take place twice a year first term will be in January and second term will be in July and each year only 3000 Indian nationals in total will be selected for this scheme. The visa issued under the scheme will be for two years and will give the applicant unrestricted and uncountable entry in the UK for two years. This visa will give Indian nationals the access to the UK job market, and they can work in the country without work visa sponsorship by their companies or employers. This scheme is actually a ballot system as the way to apply for this scheme is by email. Once the ballot is open which is only for 48 hours, the applicant sends the email mentioning all the required details and if applicant's ballot email is selected then the applicant will be invited to apply for the Youth Professional Scheme visa and if the visa application is approved then the said visa will be granted.

This scheme is also offered under the name of Youth Mobility Scheme ballot to the citizens of 'Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, etc. The first ballot for India was supposed to open in January 2022 but due to some issues it was delayed and now the first ballot is set to open by late July or August. Along with this a post-study Graduate Route was also launched in July 2021 which offers Indian students who enrol for higher studies in the UK to live and work or find work for upto two years post their studies without any sponsorship from employer and Phd candidates can get an extension for upto three years. According to Mr. Alex Ellis, "Indian student numbers to the UK are growing fast, and nearly half of all UK skilled work visas go to Indian professionals – contributing significantly to shared prosperity and mutual understanding. I'm confident the new the post-study Graduate Route and Young Professionals scheme will significantly increase those numbers" (British High Commissioner to India, Alex Ellis in 2021).

Now I shall provide some points which will answer the question to how this Young Professionals Scheme will be beneficial for India and the UK and how it will increase the cooperation between the two countries. The first point is; this scheme visa will give talented and young Indian professionals a chance to live and work in a country like Britain which has immense opportunities and high standard of living along with great work life balance. The Indian nationals won't have to depend on companies and employers to sponsor them for a work visa which is an extensive process. The second point is; since it is a sponsor free entry the UK based companies in can attract high skilled workers with great educational backgrounds and high English proficiency as the companies will not have the liability of sponsoring them or the hassle of having a sponsoring licence. This will lead to an easy path for talented young Indians who have the potential to work but are lacking behind because they do not have the access to the work visa or the right to work in that particular country. The third point is; as majority of the Indian nationals coming via this route in the UK will be classified under high skill workers and this visa will not only benefit Indians but will also have economic benefits for the UK. As migrants who are skilled workers both high and low will increase UK's 'GDP per person and productivity', expand the labour market, bring in new investments and new skills and they will fill up the positions in the UK which are in high demand.

For example, the National Health Service in England has a high percentage of Indian migrants who are currently working in the medical field and in fact Indian origin medical professionals are the second largest working staff at NHS after the British citizens. And the last point is; there will definitely be professional and cultural exchange which will bring prosperity to both the nations and ease youth mobility between the countries. But there could be some problem in this scheme which majorly relates to the set number of candidates which can apply each year from India which are just 3000. India is an extremely populated country with a high number of populations falling in the age category of 18-30 and in that category if we assume that even 50% of them meet the eligibility for this scheme then also the number of applicants would be much higher than 3000. This will be an unfair disadvantage for Indian nationals as thousands of them will not be selected in this ballot entry. Whereas countries like Australia and New Zealand are allocated with 30,000 and 13,000 places for their nationals respectively making them the highest applicants of them all.

5.2 Social Security Agreement

There are high chances that there could be a Social Security Agreement between the two countries as three meetings have already taken place between the respective officials of both the countries to further discuss a possibility for signing this agreement. A Social Security Agreement is a bilateral agreement between two countries to safeguard the interest of international workers. This agreement focuses on employees who go abroad (host country) for a short period of duration through their current employer (home country). Currently India has Social Security Agreement with 20 countries and the UK has this agreement with 17 countries. According to the document published by Confederation of Indian Industry and Moore Kingston Smith, “The absence of an India-UK social security agreement is a barrier to trade and investment between the two countries. Employees working (Indian employees in the UK) on secondment are suffering double contributions and employers suffer a double liability for the employer component. These are hidden costs of trading between India and the UK” (Confederation of Indian Industry and Moore Kingston Smith, 2021). If this agreement is signed between these two countries, then it will reap benefits such as employees will not pay double coverage (first in their own country India and second in their host country the UK), the workers on both sides will be equally treated in terms of social security and fair contribution in pension scheme. Although nothing has been finalised or came into legal force regarding this agreement as still the details are being carried out.

5.3 Prevention and Combatting of Illegal Migration

Illegal migration has become a common factor during the last few decades as these people are escaping for a better life. There are many illegal migrants who overstay their visa, forge documents or work under false pretences. India and the UK are partnering to combat and prevent this problem as both countries will deport illegal migrants by doing proper verification of their unlawful residency in either country and will start the process of re-admission of those illegal migrants into their home country. This process will help both the countries to tackle this problem and will put a stop to illicit activities, organised crimes, human & drug trafficking, smuggling and money laundering.

6. Climate Partnership

In this fourth and last part, I will analyse the Climate Partnership of Roadmap 2030 between India and the UK. I consider this partnership to be an important aspect between these two countries because this crisis requires an immediate action, and this partnership will not only help India and the UK both will also lead a path for other countries to establish such partnerships and work towards a common goal to control such crisis. Climate change is a real phenomena no matter how much we deny it or ignore it but climate change is happening all over the world at a rate which no one ever expected. The increase in temperature, intense and frequent floods, earthquake, droughts, heat waves, melting of glaciers, escalating sea level and other calamity are just a few examples of climate change along with serious health issues which people are and will be dealing with due to these drastic climate changes. Such climatic changes are not something which happened overnight but a result of several years of harm caused by greenhouse gases, burning fossil fuels, carbon emission, heavy manufacturing industries, biodiversity, deforestation and etc. Various countries like Luxembourg, Finland, New Zealand, Denmark, etc are amongst the countries who are taking this crisis seriously and have implemented policies regarding it.

In India, floods, heat waves, droughts, impact on crop production, rising sea level, water scarcity have increased a lot over the years and affected millions of people. It is observed that the temperature of India has increased by 0.7°C between 1901 to 2018. The average summer day temperature in most of the Indian states goes as high as 45°C. In the recent past there have been many incidents where such calamities have occurred; one such example is of Kedarnath, a holy town in the state of Uttarakhand, in 2013 this town experienced deadly floods and landslides due to a massive cloud burst which killed thousands of people and completely destroyed the town. Similarly, the UK is experiencing much warmer summers than ever with high levels of rainfall, rise in sea level and minimal snowfall. In the UK sectors like agriculture, livestock and fisheries are decreasing due to climate change. With rising sea levels, floods and heavy rainfalls, the UK being an island country possesses many threats for itself as well. The year 2020 was the ‘third warmest year and fifth wettest year in the UK’. In the following pages, I shall discuss the three most important initiatives of climate partnership between India and the UK which are; ‘COP26, Green Grids Initiative, Clean Green Initiative and Infrastructure for Resilient Island States Initiative’.

6.1 COP 26

Under the Roadmap 2030, the climate partnership between India and the UK is aiming to achieve many substantial goals which will help to fight climate change. According to the document published by the government of India, “India and the UK will enhance bilateral cooperation towards low carbon development and climate resilient pathways, mobilise investment and collaborate to strengthen climate discourse and decision making in line with the principles of the UNFCCC including its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement and build on the India-UK partnership between the Green Growth Equity Fund and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund to mobilise institutional investments in the targeted renewable energy, waste management, electric mobility” (the Ministry of External Affairs India, 2021). Most important and anticipated initiative launch amongst this climate partnership is Global Green Grids Initiative at COP26 and India’s vision of One Sun One World One Grid. The COP26 was hosted by the UK and Italy in Glasgow, Scotland from October 31st till November 12th, 2021, and the conference was attended by more than 150 countries. COP26 was considered to be the most important and urgent conference to bring countries together and find appropriate measures to tackle climate change.

The climate partnership under the Roadmap 2030 between both the countries became much more stronger after their collaboration at COP26. India and the UK displayed immense support by sharing each other’s agenda. International Solar Alliance is program which fights climate change by giving importance to solar energy, it is led by India and France with member countries; Australia, The United Kingdom and The United States of America. ISA was first introduced in France in 2015 by Prime Minister Modi and French President Hollande. The recent event of annual India Global Forum which was held in February 20202, according to COP26 President Alok Sharma, “the UK is proud to be a member of the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA) and partners in the Coalition for Disaster Relief Infrastructure (CDRI). India is absolutely a critical partner in tackling climate change” (COP26 President Alok Sharma, 2022).

6.2 Green Grids Initiative - Vision: One Sun One World One Grid

In today's day and age approximately 70% to 80% of the energy is created by burning various types of fossil fuels. Many countries and industries use the combustion method of fossil fuel as it is relatively a cheaper way to generate energy, power or electricity at a lower cost, but it is extremely unsustainable because 'fossil fuel combustion releases greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide in large amount' which in turn creates pollution and global warming. Back in 2018, Prime Minister Modi shared his vision of clean solar energy from the sun with the world called 'One Sun One World One Grid'. The goal of this initiative was to establish a worldwide connected ecosystem for clean energy that will generate electricity via grids all over the world from the sun as the sun never sets, the clean solar energy can be taken from the region where the sun is risen and transferred to the region where it is night. According to PM Modi, "if the world has to move to a clean and green future, these interconnected transnational grids are going to be critical solutions"(Prime Minister Modi, 2021). Now in November 2021, at COP26, with India and the UK's joint collaboration the Green Grids Initiative - One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) was launched and more than 80 countries supported and backed this joint collaboration.

The GGI-OSOWOG is launched under India's International Solar Alliance with the other members Britain, US, France and Australia. Both the countries are highly ambitious for this initiative as this leads to a path for clean power with transmittable electricity grids across the globe. This initiative is one of its kind and none of the countries have ever launched such collaboration for clean energy and solar electricity as this will not only benefit India and Britain but also other countries by 2030. Both rich and poor, develop and developing countries are endorsing this project. According to the document of One Sun Declaration, "to invest in solar, wind, storage, build long-distance cross-border transmission lines, develop and deploy cutting edge techniques and technologies to modernise power systems and support green grids, to support the global transition to zero emission vehicles, attract investment into solar mini-grids, developing innovative financial instruments, market structures, and facilitate financial and technical assistance" (One Sun Declaration, 2021).

The vision and goals of this initiative looks very promising and the degree of commitment and cooperation both the countries are showing towards this is significant. This will not only provide renewable energy through green grids, decreased the carbon footprint but will also meet the goal of Paris Agreement. This initiative will also be responsible for creating millions of jobs in various countries and advocating green investments. Although it is considered to be a substantial project which will require a hefty amount of investment for its infrastructure as transmission networks will be expanded to a vast demographic area. The total investment for this initiative by 2030 is estimated to be US\$1 trillion.

6.3 Clean Green Initiative

Clean Green Initiative was launched by Prime Minister Johnson at COP26, the aim of this initiative is to bring in private and public investments in the developing countries and build sustainable infrastructure, India is also amongst these developing countries. The UK is all set for the climate financing and will release a fund of £3 billion over the next five year to developing countries including India for providing clean and green technologies which would work hand in hand towards climate change and by profiting the economy of these developing countries. Prime Minister Johnson refers to this initiative as UK's Green Industrial Revolution and wants it to go global. There are two big schemes under this initiative which are highly beneficial for India; India Green Guarantee and Electric Vehicle Manufacturing. The UK has announced that it will provide an India Green Guarantee to the World Bank which will provide funds for green projects throughout India. UK's Private Infrastructure Development Group will also invest in green projects in developing nations including India. The benefits of 'India Green Guarantee' for India are this green financing will promote clean growth infrastructures across India which will include clean energy, transportation and urban development as these sectors have a high potential and by 2030 the expected worth will be around £1.8 trillion and this scheme will not only benefit India but also the UK. The UK will also invest in India for setting up electric vehicle manufacturing factories which will benefit India both monetarily and job wise.

These manufacturing units will create thousands of jobs in India for both skilled and unskilled workers which will decrease the unemployment rate. Pollution is very high in India with more electric vehicles in the market the consumers will have more options and will lean towards electric vehicles. India is a big market for cars whether it be petrol, diesel or electric and since the last five years the government is also encouraging the consumers to buy electric vehicles and the government has introduced several benefits on the purchase of electric vehicles. This will increase the profitability of British automobile companies in India. India and the UK are collaborating on ‘Green Growth Equity Fund’ which has a projected investment of more than one hundred million dollars from both the sides. The Clean Green Initiative and the others mentioned above will not only be financially beneficial for both countries but will also tackle climate change, create jobs, expand various markets and support green energy.

6.4 Infrastructure for Resilient Island States Initiative

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States Initiative (IRIS) was launched at COP26, and it was supported by India and the UK. This program has its roots under the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in which both the countries are co-chairs. This initiative works for the prosperity of small island nations by developing infrastructure for them. This initiative works for the advantage of the most vulnerable and poorest island countries and the ones which are most affected by climate change in the world. India and the UK will build infrastructure and work for the wellbeing of human welfare. Leaders of countries like Australia, the US and Japan are also supporting IRIS and CDRI.

7. Conclusion

The aim of this thesis was to analyse Brexit's implication on India and UK's relationship and to answer the research question as to whether Brexit led to an increased cooperation between India and UK or not. India and the United Kingdom have come a long since India's independence in 1947 and a lot of things have changed domestically as well as internationally for these nations. Since the Brexit referendum, many countries have changed their outlook towards the UK and the UK believes it has entered a new era of its foreign policies and terms itself as Global Britain. India and the UK are working towards building a firmer and resilient foreign policy and partnership which has not been possible since the last few decades. In May 2021, the dream vision 2030 was launched under the Roadmap 2030 between these two countries which focused on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to enhance and strengthen the relationship between the two nations. I have analysed the implications of Brexit on India and UK's relation through the various objectives defined in this strategic plan namely Economic Cooperation, Defence Cooperation, Migration & Mobility Partnership and Climate Partnership.

The analysis on Economic Cooperation showed that India and the UK had some ups and downs in past years especially in the period of 2016-2019 as their GDP remained very low it is considered to be the effects of Demonetisation and GST in India and Brexit in the UK which led to the some issues such as slow growth rate and unemployment in both countries. Prior to Brexit the trade between the two nations decreased and this decline in trade between India and the UK could be because of the Free Trade Agreement signed between India and ASEAN, India's Look East Policy and the high trade barriers and non-tariff measures of these two countries. Although bilateral trade has seen a decline in last years but the Enhanced Trade Partnership which is a part of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership aims to increase the bilateral trade by 50% till the year 2030 between India and UK and this partnership has led to a Free Trade agreement (still at the negotiation stage) between the two nations. The FTA between India and UK will benefit the economy and balance of trade and is expected to bring long term benefits with it as exports and imports from either country are expected to become relatively simple and cheaper with low tariffs and reduction in non-tariff measures, the SMEs will gain benefits and several jobs will be created in both the countries. Under the Economic Cooperation the two nations are working to strengthen their volume of trade and investment and financial cooperation.

Many initiatives are launched to support this agreement between two nations like Global Innovation Partnership and UK-India Green Growth Equity Fund. The UK is closely collaborating with India on GIFT CITY which in turn will benefit the UK's financial and banking system and create the national infrastructure pipeline for India. During the pandemic both countries experienced high inflation and they also cooperated in creating one of the first covid vaccines. It is evident that economic cooperation between India and the UK has increased significantly with all the investments coming in for both the countries, making the trade stronger and to increase the trade in-comparison to past years, the jobs creation, the Enhanced Trade partnership and future of FTA, etc. Such economic cooperation never existed before Brexit.

The analysis on Defence Cooperation showed that under the defence and security partnership both the nations have agreed on the Indo Pacific Tilt which is considered to be one of the most important agreements under this defence partnership. India which is the member of Quad has been considered to be an important strategic partner under the Indo-Pacific tilt for the UK. As one of the first acts in the Indo-Pacific tilt the Carrier Strike Group was brought to India and later deployed in the Bay of Bengal (Indian Ocean). Countries like France, Germany and the Netherlands are also some of the European key players in the Indo-Pacific region. Both the countries are collaborating on several other MoUs like UK- India Defence Technology and Industrial Capability Cooperation, Logistic and Training MoU, etc. Under these defence cooperation strategies and India's recent change in buying arms and ammunition from foreign countries directly can benefit the UK as the country's share in arm imports in India has been relatively low in the last few years. The UK will work hard to increase its shares in the arms import market of India and the UK should make its place under the top three arms importers of India, but it could be a difficult task for the UK as Russia and the US are the top importers and India has a strong connection with both the countries. The UK in coming months will issue India an Open General Export License, which makes India the first county in the Indo-Pacific region to get this license which is an added benefit for the country. The UK has also criticised Pakistan and China for performing terrorist and illegal acts in India. While India and the UK in the past had a pretty decent defence cooperation but with the Roadmap 2030 and Brexit their cooperation will surely increase especially in the Indo-Pacific region and maritime cooperation.

The analysis on Migration and Mobility Partnership showed that under the Vision 2030 various schemes and agreements are launched which will benefit the citizens who are looking to migrate to the UK in search of jobs or for higher education. One of the most talked about scheme under the Migration and Mobility Partnership is the Youth Professionals Scheme which will open twice a year and will give 3000 UK visas (valid for two years). In lieu of India's 75th Independence Day, the UK has issued 75 special scholarships for Indian students to study in the UK. The other is the Social Security Agreement which is under process not finalised yet and it is beneficial for international workers. Another visa scheme is the Graduate Route which will give international students two years post study visa. Both countries are taking a strong stand against illegal migration and have agreed to deport illegal migrants from either country which will put a stop to illicit activities, organised crimes, human & drug trafficking, smuggling and money laundering. Indian students are in vast majority in the UK universities and the population of Indian diaspora is amongst the highest and the majority of Indian migrants who work in the UK are under high skilled worker category. With this Migration and Mobility Partnership and schemes launched under this are definitely going to increase the cooperation post Brexit between India and UK because no such visa schemes have ever been launched between India and UK prior to Brexit. I believe these schemes and agreements will attract the brightest of the talents in the UK which in turn will benefit the companies and the universities in the UK.

The analysis on Climate Partnership showed that the partnership between India and UK is much needed because the global issue of climate change requires instant action. As under the Roadmap 2030, the climate partnership between India and the UK is aiming to achieve many substantial goals which will help to fight climate change and support Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol. At COP 26, the climate partnership between the two countries enhanced further as India announced its Green Grids Initiative - One Sun One World One Grid (first launched in 2018) which was launched under India's International Solar Alliance of which the UK is a member along with US, France and Australia. This initiative by joint collaboration of India and the UK is one of its kind and none of the countries have ever launched such collaboration for clean energy and solar electricity as this will also benefit other countries as well. Clean Green Initiative was launched at COP26 by the UK and is all set for the climate financing and will release a fund of £3 billion over the next five year to developing countries including India.

UK will also investment in setting up electric vehicle manufacturing factories in India and India Green Guarantee which was announced by the UK will provide green financing and will promote green infrastructures across India which will include. These climate partnerships will not only tackle climate change but will also create jobs, expand various markets, support green energy and bring in foreign investments as well. It is no doubt a strong foot ahead post Brexit in terms of climate cooperation as before there were some climate partnerships between India and the UK but these new partnerships have support from other countries as well and are formulated to genuinely make a change in the climate crisis. To answer my research question- 'does Brexit lead to an increased cooperation between India and the UK?' by concluding the analysis of the above-mentioned aspects I would like to say that yes, I strongly believe that Brexit leads to an increased cooperation between India and the UK. Prior to Brexit both the countries had decent relations with each other but with Brexit, India and the UK will have higher potential to establish a separate and improved strategic cooperation with each other and it will surely be a start of a new decade of partnership. Some of the policies, agreements and schemes like the Enhanced Trade Partnership, Free Trade Agreement, Indo-Pacific Tilt, Defence and International Security Partnership, Youth Professional Scheme, GGI-OSOWOG, Clean Green Initiative, Covid cooperation and Roadmap 2030 are the proof of increased cooperation between the two nations post Brexit.

The Russian war on Ukraine has been strongly condemned by almost every nation in the world. While India has not publicly spoken against Russia for its wrong doings in Ukraine and nations like the US has expressed displeasure against India's stance although India has shown humanitarian support to Ukraine and insisted on peaceful talks between the two nations. India even got a safe passage for its stranded students in Ukraine. India and Russia have a long line of strong relationship whether it be during the soviet era or now. There could be a number of reasons why India did not publicly speak against Russia. First, India and Russia's strong relations since 1955 and Russia has veto power and on numerous occasions the country has used its veto power to help India or on its behalf so, to maintain a strong relationship with a country who has veto power is beneficial for India. Second, India's foes China and Pakistan wants to build a closer relationship with Russia so if India would have spoken against Russia, then it would have given China and Pakistan a chance to increase their closeness with Russia which is not beneficial for India.

Third, Russia is one of the top suppliers of arms to India although the imports have reduced in the past few years still India receives a large number of arms from Russia. And fourthly, India and Russia has a pattern with each other which has been going on according to Ashley Tellis, “India’s posture today remains fundamentally consistent with its past forbearance in the face of previous Russian aggression, for example, in Hungary in 1956, in Czechoslovakia in 1968, and in Afghanistan in 1979 similarly Russia did not ally with or arm Pakistan against India, it supported New Delhi against U.S. pressure during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war and it has never criticised developments in Indian domestic politics” (Ashley Tellis, 2022). The above mentioned could be some of the reasons as to why India did not go publicly against Russia for its violent and unjust act. With this war, the geopolitical situation between India and the United Kingdom has not changed as the Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary of India and the UK respectively have held talks during the India-UK Strategic Futures Forum held in March 2022 and emphasised on strengthening the India-UK ties as soon as possible. Many official meetings, negotiations, visit by PM Johnson, etc have been held since this war began and it has not affected the new budding relationship between India and the UK.

The resignation of Prime Minister Boris Johnson was the most talked about political affair in the past month. His resignation comes after many scandals and turmoils him, and his party faced during his tenure and his relatively short stay as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom saw many major obstacles like Brexit and COVID 19 and his infamous ‘Partygate scandal’ during the pandemic months of 2020-2021. The top two candidature for the position as the new Prime Minister of the UK and the leader of Conservative party are ‘Rishi Sunak- ex chancellor and he’s of Indian origin and Liz Truss- Foreign Secretary’. The budding Comprehensive Strategic partnership and Roadmap 2030 as of now will go as planned and there won’t be any changes both the candidates hail from the Conservative party as Mr. Sunak and Ms. Truss are in favour of increased cooperation between India and the UK and support the Roadmap 2030. In fact, Mr. Sunak and Ms. Truss have worked with their counterparts from India on the objectives of Vision 2030.

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