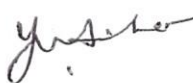


JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM AND INDIA ON SETTING UP A FAST TRACK MECHANISM FOR INDIAN COMPANIES IN THE UK

It has been jointly decided to set up a Fast Track mechanism to further support Indian companies in the UK.

- The key objective for the Fast Track mechanism is to identify and resolve specific issues faced by Indian companies who are either in the UK or looking to establish operations in the UK, where Her Majesty's Government can directly help resolve such matters.
- The Fast Track mechanism can also serve as a platform for discussing general issues relating to Ease of Doing Business in the UK for Indian investors. However, it is not intended to detract from or take precedence over other existing forums where such issues have already been raised.
- All cases for inclusion in the Fast Track mechanism will be jointly approved by the Department for International Trade ("DIT") and the High Commission of India ("HCI") and each will nominate a single point of contact from within their respective organisations for all enquiries.
- DIT will process applications and enquiries within one month where possible. DIT will pursue and monitor each case, with regular reviews. The HCI will maintain the updated list of cases included in the Fast Track mechanism.
- DIT will facilitate the participation of Other Government Departments, Local Authorities, Devolved Authorities and Greater London Authority on a case by case basis.
- The HCI will facilitate the participation of relevant Indian government departments or agencies.
- The Fast Track mechanism will be reviewed annually at the level of Permanent Secretary, DIT and the High Commissioner of India. They will also assess at their meeting, whether the frequency of the review should be increased.
- DIT and HCI will meet at working level at shorter intervals as and when required to review progress achieved. Cases that have been on the Fast Track mechanism for 12 months will be jointly assessed to identify if they should be taken out of the Fast Track mechanism due to changes in priorities or policies.
- Any urgent issue that cannot be resolved at the working level will be escalated to the International Director, DIT and the Indian Deputy High Commissioner who should meet and discuss on a case by case basis.
- The Fast Track mechanism will be operational 6 months after the signing of the joint statement.

Signed in London on 17th April 2018 by:



**His Excellency Y K Sinha
High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom
For the Republic of India**



**Sir Dominic Asquith
British High Commissioner to Republic of India
For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland**