

## **CPG on India MoU signing Minutes**

### **Present**

Pam Gosal MBE MSP  
Sharon Dowey MSP  
Alexander Stewart MSP  
Michelle Thomson MSP  
Douglas Ross MSP  
Paul O’Kane MSP  
Kenneth Gibson MSP

### **Invited guests**

Siddharth Malik- Consul General of India (CG)  
Dr Poonam Gupta OBE- CEO of PG Paper (PG)  
Sandy Begbie- Chief Executive of Scottish Financial Enterprise (SB)  
Rashmi Singh- Head of UK Operations for Federation of Indian Chambers of  
Commerce and Industry (RS)

Amit Choudhary- Vice Consul  
Hari Kumar- Photographer for the Consulate  
Mandar Kinalekar- IT Professional  
Abhijit Chakraborty- IT Professional from the banking sector  
Sandeep Srivastava- IT Professional from Lloyds  
Deepak Verma- Finance Business Partner for Lloyds  
Sharad Bansali- Rajasthan Society Scotland  
Puneet Dwivedi- Data Architect at HCL Technologies  
Goutam Das- Release Manager Abridn Investments  
Pankaj Pankaj- International Dean for South Asia for University of Edinburgh  
Anurag Agarwal- Baillie Gifford Graphic Delivery Manager  
Guy Jubb  
Colin Clunie- Clearwater Analytics; Head of EMEA & APAC Operations  
Alice Jarrold- Edinburgh Napier University; International Operations and Student  
Recruitment  
Ben Rose- SFE  
Dr Poonam Malik  
Gayatri Prasad  
Manoj Saha  
Manish Sonkar  
Malik Tabrez

## **Apologies**

No apologies.

## **Welcome, Introduction and signing off of last minutes**

Last meeting's minutes (7 October 2024) signed off by Alexander Stewart MSP and Michelle Thomson MSP.

## **Introduction of attendees**

The Convenor, Pam Gosal MBE MSP, welcomed the group to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The Convenor gives overview of the founding and work of the CPG on India.

The Convenor talks about the CPG's visit to India in 2023.

Convenor thanks Dr Poonam Gupta OBE for support during India trip, as well as the Indian High Commissioner and the previous Indian Consul in Edinburgh.

Convenor talks about the three objectives stemming from trip to India including MoU and emphasises that this is milestone for CPG.

## **Remarks from Council General**

CG emphasises that the MoU is a significant milestone, marking a new chapter in the relations between India and Scotland.

Aim to triple bilateral trade between UK and India. Many Scottish Companies operating in India and vice versa. Financial Industry most promising area of collaboration between 2 sides.

MoU direct effect of work of CPG and thanks Convenor, CPG and MSPs, SFE, FICCI.

MoU just beginning and must continue to explore more opportunities.

Consul General remains committed to explore more as well.

## **Remarks from Sandy Begbie on behalf of Scottish Financial Enterprise (SFE)**

SB said this marks a new step in cooperation between the organisations and that he is excited by opportunity of MoU.

Own experience with India goes back many years struck by creativity and innovation in India.

SFE long history of representing industry, in Scotland and internationally.

Financial services contribute £15 billion to Scottish economy, largest sector in Scotland. Fintech also rapidly growing in Scotland, real opportunity to collaborate and connect.

Many financial enterprises have presence in India.

Financial services rely on relationships with universities, many good Universities in Scotland, MoU provides opportunities for universities as well.

### **Remarks from Dr Poonam Gupta OBE on behalf of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)**

Congratulates SFE and FICCI for MoU signing and says that is something that will benefit both Scotland and India. Will harness FinTech innovation.

India represents breath of opportunity for Scotland's businesses and so does Scotland for India.

#### **4 Areas of collaboration:**

Digital Payments and Financial Inclusion

Block chain and crypto currency

Regulatory innovation

Collaboration in AI and predictive analytics

Looks forward to building even stronger relationship between both countries.

Thanks Pam Gosal MBE MSP for building and chairing CPG, which resulted in MoU signing.

### **Remarks from Rashmi Singh on behalf of FICCI**

Reads message from the Director General of FICCI about MoU fostering stronger ties between two countries.

### **Signing of Document takes Place**

Signing between Rashmi Singh (FICCI) and Sandy Begbie (SFE)

*\*Interruption due to Covid-19 Minute of Silence\**

**Pictures taken**

**AOB**