

Cross-Party Group on India

Wednesday 17th June 2026, 1 to 1.30pm

Location: Scottish Parliament (Committee Room 6)

Minutes

Present

Group members

Martyn Day MSP, Convenor
Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP
Murdo Fraser MSP
Duncan Massey MSP

Invited guests

Mr. Amit Chaudhary, Vice Consul India, Edinburgh
Puneet Dwivedi, INSA Indian Student Organisation
Mr Siddharth Malik, Consul General of India, Edinburgh

Observers

Niall Mohan, Senior Parliamentary Assistant for Martyn Day
Sam Yacomine, Intern, Scottish Parliament
Vedic Shiju, Falkirk East and Linlithgow constituent

Secretariat Services provided by Yolande Claes, of PG Paper Company Ltd

Apologies

Poonam Gupta OBE, CEO of PG Paper Company Ltd

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Convenor welcomed the Group to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. It was noted this was the very first meeting of the new CPG on India following the Scottish Parliamentary elections in May 2026.

Apologies were noted.

The Convenor invited all present to introduce themselves and highlight their interest in joining the new CPG on India.

The Convener added that Paul Sweeney MSP was keen to rejoin the CPG on India and that the Scottish Greens had indicated their intention to nominate someone to join the CPG on India.

2. Introduction of CPG

The Convenor confirmed the purpose of the Cross-Party Group on India and stressed that the objectives should remain the same as for the former CPG on India chaired by Pam Gosal MSP, whose work as Convenor was acknowledged by the new Convenor and attendees.

The Group's main aim is to promote relations between Scotland and India. The Group seeks to work with organisations and authorities to increase cultural, educational and economic exchange between the two nations, to engage with the Consulate General of India in Edinburgh and other interested organisations. The Group will act as a platform for relevant stakeholders to share their experience and expertise and further aims to find a platform for discussion with MSPs and to keep them informed of the issues raised.

It was also noted that the Group is in the public interest as it reflects the number of people of Indian heritage choosing to live in Scotland to contribute to our economy and society and is an opportunity to promote common interest and shared heritage.

The Group reaffirmed its commitment to deepening India-Scotland partnerships across trade, education, culture and community engagement.

The Group agreed the following three topics to focus on as a CPG on India: Trade and Innovation; Culture; Education.

3. Office Bearers

The Group proceeded to appoint the Office Bearers and Secretary/Treasurer.

The Group approved MD as Convenor.

The Convener proposed ACH as Vice Convenor and this was seconded by the Group. The Convener proposed YC as Secretary to the Group and Puneet Dwivedi as Treasurer and this was approved by the Group.

4. Future Works and Events

The Consul General of India spoke about the relationship between Scotland and India and mentioned the recently approved UK – India Free Trade Agreements which should be implemented shortly. He observed that Scotland was widely considered a major winner in the UK-India trade agreement, with key Scottish sectors such as the food

and drink industries due to benefit significantly as well as Scottish firms in technology, clean energy and professional services which are likely to also gain. However, the Consul General of India also noted the lack of awareness of the FTAs. He reminded the Group that the former CPG on India had conducted a trade mission to India in 2023 and this could be considered again.

The Consul General of India observed that the Commonwealth Games taking place in Glasgow in July 2026 would be a great opportunity as they will bring over a strong delegation from India, with lots of fringe events taking place.

The Consul General of India also mentioned a forthcoming event in Edinburgh in July 2026, with author William Dalrymple talking about The Relentless Rise of the East India Company. Invitations to members of the CPG will follow shortly

The Consul General of India also informed members that India's new High Commissioner to the U.K., Periasamy Kumaran, appointed in May 2026, may be able to attend the next meeting of the CPG on India.

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP queried the possibility of hosting a Diwali event in the Scottish Parliament. The Consul General of India noted that PG Paper Company Ltd had previously hosted such an event on a couple of occasions and this could be explored again.

ACT: YC to discuss with PG

5. AOB

Douglas Massey MSP advised the Group that he had become the Convener of the **Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee**, noting that the economic aspect of the Scotland-India relationship was very important. He invited the Consul General of India to attend a meeting of the Committee and present to the Committee, which the Consul General of India kindly accepted.

Murdo Fraser advised the Group that he was the Co-Convener of the CPG on Scotch Whisky and suggested holding a joint meeting with the CPG on India, which members agreed to do.

Puneet Dwivedi advised the Group that he also worked as UK Government Civil Servant specialising in AI, Digital Data and Technology and suggested inviting AI companies to a meeting of the CPG on India as AI is becoming more and more important. Members agreed.

Puneet Dwivedi, in his capacity as Scotland Lead for The Indian National Student Association, also suggested holding student events in the Scottish Parliament, which members agreed was a good idea.

The Convener closed the meeting.