



## **Contents**

Year in review	2
Enabling connections and understanding through arts and culture	2
India/UK Together, a Season of Culture	5
<b>Showcases during the Season of Culture</b>	7
Strengthening international connections in education	14
Enabling student mobility between India and the UK	20
Delivering excellence in English	2.5
teaching and learning	22
Libraries	24
English for learners	25
Audience reach	26
About us	28
Contact	29

Cover image: Children from the community line up to take part in the lantern parade as part of the Govandi Arts Festival in Mumbai

### Year in review

This past year has been a **year of connection**, **collaboration** and **celebration** across all our work in education, arts and culture and the English language.

India is now the fifth largest world economy, set to be the third biggest in the next decade or so, its leadership of the G20 and the fact it is now the world's most populous country are all contributing factors to what has been described as 'India's Moment.'

I am delighted to be back here again at this incredible time in India's history. This year has been a time to reconnect with colleagues, friends and partners across the country and I am looking forward to building on 75 years of British Council in India in 2023-24.

Last year we worked with the government, our partners in the education, cultural and English language sectors, in the UK and in India, and reached 30.5 million people. We collaborated with 1,527 partner organisations and 11 state governments, delivering on the ambitious India-UK Roadmap 2030 objectives in culture and education, research and innovation - key pillars of the India-UK bilateral relationship - and our Corporate Plan.

With over **126,000 Indian students now studying in the UK's** world class education system, we now have more Indian students in the UK than any other nationality, including

Chinese. We are lucky to welcome such talented and committed students from India - a shining example of the deep relations and ever-growing, thriving education partnership between our two countries.

In 2022, we celebrated the UK and India deepening our higher education connections with the signing of the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications (MRQs) Agreement. This helped pave the way for a growing number of innovative Transnational Education (TNE) Partnerships, helping bring the ambitious internationalisation goals in the NEP 2020 to life. Examples of successful collaborations include University of Birmingham and IIT Madras who have launched joint masters' programmes in data science and artificial intelligence, and IIT Kharagpur and University of Manchester who offer a joint PhD programme. We look forward to working with our partners across the education ecosystems in India and the UK to help more such initiatives flourish over the coming years.

We have also been proud to partner with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) (India) and UK's Advance HE to help develop the Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI), a **gender equality framework** for research and higher education institutions.

The 'India/UK Together, a Season of

Culture' finished in March 2023, a 10-month long programme marking India's 75th anniversary of independence. The Season launched in June 2022 by showcasing the breadth of our planned engagement with cultural partners across the country to the largest UK Higher Education leaders' delegation to India.

The Season explored our cultures, our shared planet and our relationship with digital technologies that will shape our future together. We celebrated modern-day India, its creative economy and cultural relationship with the UK, and connected with the creative young people in both countries to address shared global challenges. Grammy and Academy Award-winning composer AR Rahman was the ambassador for the Season.



Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR with Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India at the launch of India/UK Together, a Season of Culture

With 51+ partnerships across India, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and England in 21 cities, over 1,945 artists came together to collaborate across artforms and themes.

Science and arts collaborated to bring exhibitions like Vaccines: Injecting Hope and India's first AI arts festival – Future Fantastic. We reimagined festivals for the future through global music collaborations with Manipuri Pena player Mangka and Gareth Bonello from Wales played at the Ziro festival in Arunachal Pradesh. EDM artists from Northern Ireland came to India and over 150 young musicians from Scotland, Nagaland and Chennai performed at a concert. Global challenges were addressed by young wildlife photographers in Kolkata, forum theatre by D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists re-imagined TS Eliot's The Wasteland, and entrepreneurs in Arts, NFTs, and AI worked together to show the effects of climate change.

Our work in literature focused on different voices – through LGBTQI poets in Birmingham and Mumbai sharing their queer experience through language to emerging publishers and writers in translation and established authors like Gitanjali Shree, Meena Kandasamy, Kishwar Desai among others speaking on the importance of multilingualism. We offered year-long fellowships for emerging new

publishers, translators and poets taking their work to established world-class platforms such as the Jaipur Literature Festival and Tata Lit Live!

Our work in English focused not only on improving the quality of English language teaching, learning and assessment through a range of professional development opportunities for teacher educators, teachers and students, but brought into focus the importance of multilingualism in alignment with India's NEP2020. We also connected UK and Indian organisations committed to using digital innovations to be effective in language classrooms. We will continue to do more in this space.

The British Council has been an active member of UNESCO's Multilingual **Education Working Group** for decades and has written on the extensive evidence base around learning through a medium of language that is understood by all.

2022-23 was all about bringing India and the UK Together; and we celebrated the transformative power of arts and culture and the impact of English and education!

Championing quality, diversity and inclusion is a core value underpinning across our work, and we are working towards increased awareness and mainstreaming of EDI with all our partners and customers as well.

I am especially excited about British Council supporting the UK's delegations and engagement for India's G20 Presidency and contributing to the shared vision of the governments of both our countries. And I look forward to building shared futures for the youth of our countries through mutual exchange and collaboration in English, education and arts.

Alison Barrett MBE Director India





We bring together creative people and organisations from across India and the UK, to facilitate collaboration and mutual understanding.

We use culture to respond to global challenges and recognise art as enabler of growth and sustainable development, as recognised by forums such as G20 and bodies like UNESCO.

We invest in research, dialogues and capacity building to influence policy development leading to strengthened creative economies.

British Council Delhi cultural centre during the launch of India/ UK Together Season of Culture on 7 June 2022. The projection illustrates modern and traditional arts links between India and the UK.

India/UK Together, a Season of Culture

India/UK Together, a Season of Culture was a 10-month celebration of the long-standing relationship between India and the UK. Marking India's 75th anniversary, it saw a vast programme of creative collaboration, education and cultural exchange take place online, and in cities across both countries.

We partnered with artists and arts organisations to develop a programme of cultural activity which brought together people in both countries, to raise awareness around key real-world issues, and strengthen and celebrate the UK and India's educational and cultural ties.

This joint cultural exchange programme, aligned to the India-UK Roadmap 2030, created a vibrant arts and culture programme to strengthen artistic collaboration, skills and networks for the creative economies of both countries as part of UK and India's Living Bridge.



The Season is a stellar cultural alliance that is celebrating the strong bonds of friendship and creativity between India and the UK. I am looking forward to an exciting year with a host of performances and events which will celebrate innovation in the Arts, nurture young and budding talent and strengthen equitable cultural exchange on an international stage. As an artist it is my absolute pleasure to support such an important cultural landmark enabling creative excellence, shining the spotlight on diverse artists and bringing diverse audiences together to appreciate the Arts and culture.

#### A. R. Rahman

Grammy and Academy Award-winning composer and India/UK Together Season of Culture ambassador







We marked India's

**75th** anniversary of Independence



51+

partnerships across India, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and England in

21 cities



Over

1,945 artists came together to celebrate, connect, and create, reaching

14m

people+ in India and the UK

Artists who developed projects for the Season, accessed over 1,000 new connections in the arts sectors in both countries.

The Season was the largest and most significant international platform for most of these artists to perform for.

Alison Barrett,
Director India, British
Council, at the Where
I Stand exhibition in
our Delhi centre. The
exhibition was
curated by the
fellows of Future
Flow, a creative
fellowship that
connected and
developed young
art talent in Scotland
and India.



## **Showcases during the Season of Culture**

Science, arts and heritage in times of change



# Vaccines: Injecting Hope exhibition

An exhibition celebrating 'innovation through international collaboration' as the world raced to beat the SARS-COV 2 pandemic, in particular the triumph of India-UK collaboration for the research and manufacturing of the Covishield vaccine.

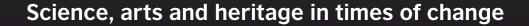
We commissioned an installation called The Lens, illustrating the victory of Covid frontline workers and the vaccine over the pandemic contextualised with the historical instance of Indian royals supporting earliest vaccines. The exhibition (running from 2022 to 2025 across India) is inspiring audiences to understand the shared cultural connections through science, arts and digital innovation in the UK and India.

Partners: National Council of Science Museums (India) and Science Museum Group, London

#### **Concert for Friendship**

This concert in Chennai brought over 150 young musicians from India and Scotland, together on a single stage, playing the works of Puccini, Verdi, Beethoven, Scottish melodies, Naga and Tamil folk songs and Carnatic music, celebrating inclusion and friendship in music while enabling opportunities for young musicians to play for international audiences.





#### **Young Minds for a Compassionate World**

The exhibition in Kolkata drew focus on perspectives of young people using their own images and words to tell the stories about their local community and environment, bringing attention to the global planetary emergency. The young photographers were mentored by award winning Indian photographers of NHM's International Wildlife Photographer of the Year alumni.

Partners: Natural History Museum London and Victoria Memorial Hall Kolkata





#### Reimagining festivals for the future



#### The global opportunity of India's multilingual literature

#### **Jaipur Literature Festival**

Literary projects from the Season of Culture were featured at the Jaipur Literature Festival 2023. The focus was on the power of translated literature to connect cultures.

The International Publishing Fellowship in partnership with The Art X Company had 12 young publishing professionals from UK and India in a year-long programme centred on translation in literature sector. It focused on skill development and networking opportunities.

**PEN Translates** was a project by English PEN to encourage the translation of Indian literature and build a foundation for translators working with UK publishers.

**Write Assamese**, a partnership between BEE Books, India, and Untold Narratives, UK, focused on fresh, unpublished Assamese authors in Northeast India.

Publishers from UK and India at the Jaipur BookMark



#### Language is a Queer Thing

Young Indian and UK poets collaborated to explore experiences of growing up queer through languages, art and poetry. Poets Amani Saeed (UK), Megha Harish (India), Ife Grillo (UK), Anil Pradhan (India), Sanah Ahsan (UK) and Garfield Dsouza (India) showcased their collaborative work and recited their powerful poetry at BBC Contains Strong Language Festival in UK, Tata Lit Live Fest in Mumbai and Jaipur Literature Festival.

Partners: The Queer Muslim Project (India) and the Verve Poetry Festival (UK)

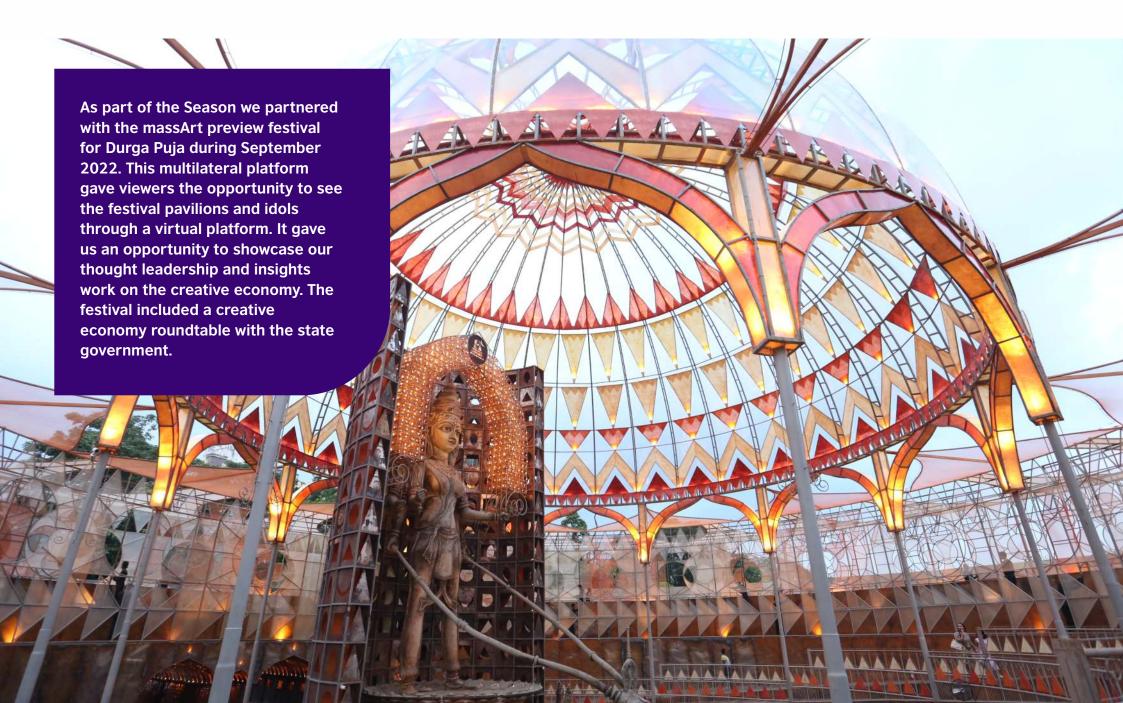
#### **Author meets – Kolkata and Chennai**

We organised engaging discussions on 'Indian literature on the world stage' and 'multilingualism and empowerment in literature' at our Kolkata and Chennai libraries. Prominent authors and translators like Geetanjali Shree, Anupama Raju, Lady Kishwar Desai, Meena Kandasamy, Daljit Nagra and Maithreyi Karnoor participated in the conversations.

Booker winning author Geetanjali Shree at the British Council Kolkata



#### Our work in the creative economy



#### **Collaborations through music**

RhythmXChange, a partnership between the Indian Music Experience Museum,
Bangalore, and Manchester Museum had four young people with musical skills from India and the UK collaborate and develop a rhythm-based music collective, which they named JAVA (Joash Gill, Aditi B Prahlad, Vinthya Perinpanathan, Ashwin Mandoth).



Talented EDM artists from Northern Ireland and India collaborated to perform at various venues under this project between boxout.fm, India and Celtronic Festival.

Elsewhere in India combined game engine technology with incredible art and Carnatic-electronic music. Digital avatars of pioneering Indian audio-visual artists Murthovic (MSR Murthy) and Thiruda (Avinash Kumar) were developed by Antariksha Studio in collaboration with Crossover Labs, UK.



#### Strengthening the festivals sector

## South Asia Festivals Academy

We are committed to strengthening the festivals sector through capacity building and partnerships with the UK. 90 festival managers and entrepreneurs were trained in various aspects of running a festival as part of the South Asia Festivals Academy, delivered in partnership with Edinburgh Napier University.

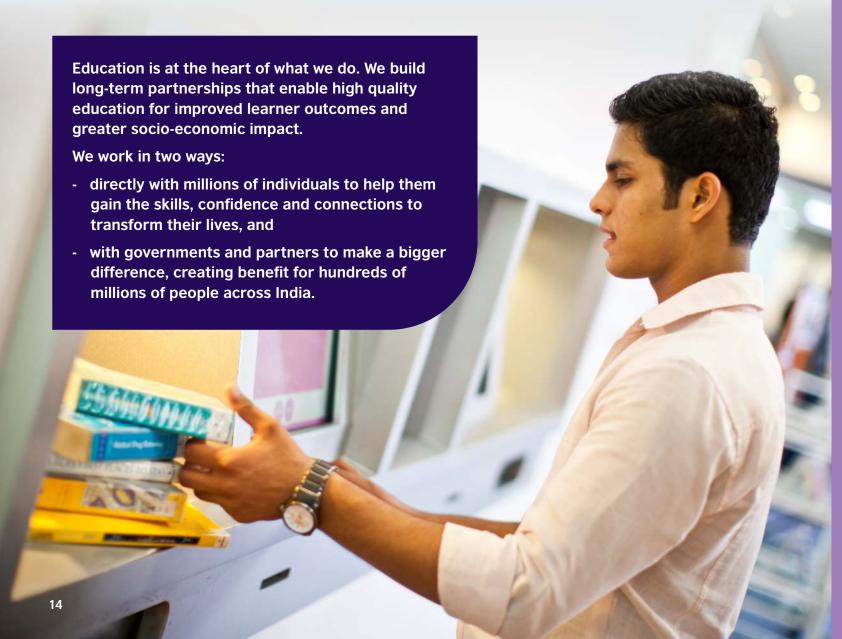
#### **Festivals from India**

We commissioned the Festivals from India, a unique platform to spotlight the artforms, artists and cultural festivals in India to further incoming cultural tourism. It was designed and developed by ArtBramha to provide visibility to India's festivals sector which make a significant contribution to the creative economy. It also strengthens networks with the UK for capacity and skill building of professionals. It has reached 180k since its launch in April 2022. In partnership with India's popular IndiGo airline, the FFI platform informs flyers about the latest festivals and cultural events happening in the country.

Pioneering female Pena player Mangka performed at the Ziro music festival in Arunachal Pradesh, following her collaboration with Focus Wales

13

# Strengthening international connections in education



# Our work aligns to the priorities agreed in the India-UK 2030 Roadmap

- Expanding cooperation between our universities, including by agreeing mutual recognition of qualifications, simplification of the education regulatory framework and greater international collaboration.
- Internationalisation of Indian universities through TNE collaborations with the UK, capacity building and advising UK HEIs on setting up international branch campuses in India.
- Introducing multidisciplinary approaches and gender equity in HE sector.
- Supporting India-UK
   partnerships in the schools
   sector which address
   systemic changes around
   assessment, MLE, sports
   integration and more.

#### Mutual recognition of academic qualifications agreement

India and the UK signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 21 July 2022 for mutual recognition of all higher education academic qualifications (MRQs) from undergraduate, post-graduate to doctorate degrees.

The MRQs is applicable to all qualifications that are A- Level and above, enabling increased exchange of knowledge between institutions and mobility of students between the two countries.

We led the joint taskforce comprising of education departments and sector apex institutions from both countries for nearly two years, resulting in the historic MRQs agreement between our two countries.

The UK Higher Education delegation in New Delhi in June 2022



#### **UK higher education delegation to India**

We work with governments and sector leaders to reimagine the future of education through policy dialogues and global forums.

The largest ever HE delegation from the UK, comprising 23 UK universities, sector representatives and apex bodies, visited India in June 2022, for the first time after the pandemic and since the rollout of the NEP 2020.

The delegation was led by the British Council,
Universities UK international (UUKi), Department of
International Trade (DIT UK) and Department for
Education (DfE UK) engaging with Ministry of Education,
University Grants Commission, Association of Indian
Universities (AIU), sector bodies, and state governments
of Delhi, West Bengal, Karnataka and Gujarat. The
discussions covered Transnational Education, two-way
mobility and research collaboration via government,
institutional and industry engagement.

### Two MoUs were signed between Indian and UK institutions:

- between Delhi Sports University and University of East London for designing sports education curriculum for Delhi Sports University.
- between Manipal Institute of Higher Education and Nottingham Trent University for higher education partnerships.

#### **Going Global Partnerships**

Our Going Global Partnerships programme builds stronger, more inclusive, internationally connected higher education and TVET systems and improves teaching, learning and innovation in priority areas such as climate and sustainability.

It supports internationalisation of higher education, the mobility of faculty and students, and developing a more inter-disciplinary approach to teaching and learning.



Total number of grants awarded

**70** 

Total number of industry partners

13



The institutions from UK and India

75 UK and

**108** Indian



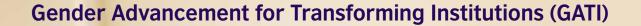
Worth of grants awarded

£1.9m

#### **Expected outcomes**

- Bridge the gap between industry and academia.
- Develop joint teaching and research programmes endorsed by industry and academia by December 2023.
- Improve the quality of global and work-ready graduates by exposing students to quality education and skills.
- Increase the number of places available for Indian students through seed funding new joint and dual degree programmes.





GATI aims to introduce gender equality framework in research and higher education institutions; it is conceptualised by the **Department of Science and Technology** (DST), Government of India, in partnership with the British Council for the pilot project.

Launched in 2020, the programme has supported higher education and research institutions in India to promote gender inclusivity in STEM by developing more gender-equitable and inclusive approaches.

The GATI programme is aligned to the UK-India 2030 Roadmap and supports the National Education Policy's objectives on gender parity.

The model draws inspiration from the Athena SWAN Gender Equality Charter and accreditation framework operated by Advance HE, UK, since 2005. The framework recognises and celebrates good practices in higher education and research institutions towards the advancement of gender equality.

9

30

Indian HEIs collaborated with 6 UK HEI partners in the pilot project to bring systemic change.



This involved

600+

members from 12 research labs, 12 Institutes of National Importance and 6 academic institutes working to develop a gender-sensitive ecosystem



32

assessors were trained to monitor the progress and action planning



#### **Education partnership with Karnataka**

Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) and British Council joined hands to further bilateral cooperation in higher education exchange between the UK and the state of Karnataka. The programme enables state government universities to partner with UK universities to enable knowledge exchange capacity building for faculty and leadership development.

Karnataka HEI	UK HEI	Project
Bengaluru City University	Birmingham City University	Net Carbon Zero Hub
Bengaluru North University	University of Highlands and Islands	A study on the impact of KC Valley Project in Kolar and Chikkaballapur Districts
Gulbarga University	University of Bradford	Design of Antimicrobial Biomolecules Composite Loaded Electro spun Dressing for Diabetic Skin Ulcer

# **Scholarships for Outstanding Undergraduate Talent (SCOUT)**

The Government of Telangana, British Council and University of Glasgow collaborated on a first-of-its-kind residential short-term course in the UK. Fifteen undergraduate students from government colleges and social and tribal welfare institutions were selected based on merit, to pursue the two week certification course on 'How to be More Rational: critical thinking, logic and reasoning' at the University of Glasgow. The SCOUT programme by the GREAT Campaign provided exposure and skills to talented students who have limited or no means to access international education and inspired them towards world-class innovation and research.

The Telangana government has also reserved five masters scholarships for study in UK universities as part of their Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship Scheme in the state.





We aim to enrich the quality of education in schools and equip young people to live and work successfully in a global society.

Our work supports system reform, and professional development for policy makers, teachers and educators enabling an inclusive, high-quality education for all learners, including more access for girls and marginalised children.

#### **Micro:bit Teacher training**

In partnership with **Samagra Shikshana Karnataka**, we have successfully trained

#### 170 government school teachers

to enhance coding skills education for the state's secondary-grade students using Micro:bit.

These trained teachers are now equipped to guide approximately **3.500 students** 

in coding classes, opening doors to computer science and robotics.



# **Premier League Primary Stars (PLPS)**

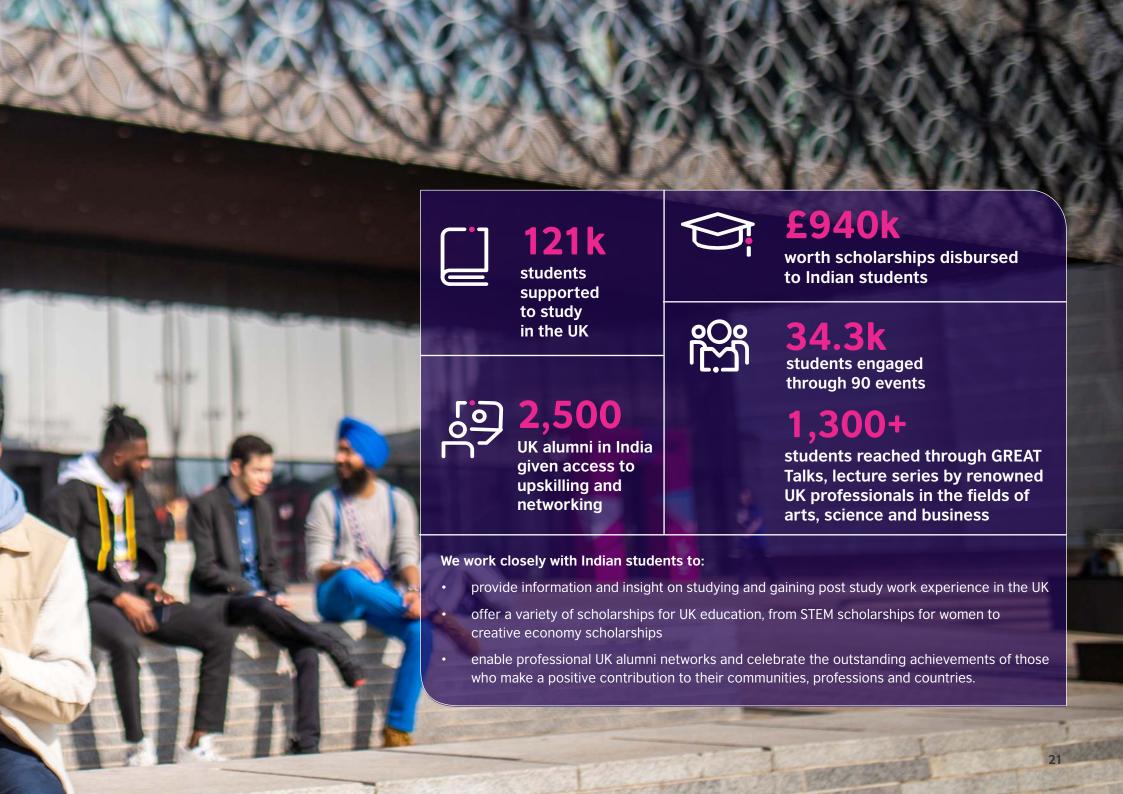
Our PLPS programme uses football to promote inclusivity in Delhi, Goa and Odisha schools.

150 government school Physical Education teachers have been trained to use football and creative teaching methods to enable children to achieve success in everything from maths and English to teamwork and sports.

The programme has reached **27,000 students** till date.









# **Digital English Innovator Forum (DLIF)**

Eight India and UK tech organisations collaborated to come up with practical and feasible solutions to address the needs of a large education system like India. These collaborations resulted in new research, insight and/or innovations, a digital-first approach and showed how EdTech could improve the teaching and learning of English.

As part of the India/UK Together Season of Culture we brought together these eight partners, **200+ representatives** from education and EdTech sectors and Indian states, **100 teachers** and teacher educators, to showcase the partnerships and the work they had done.

#### **Partnerships:**

GL Education Group and ARG Consulting Pvt Ltd

Professional Language Solutions and Dosti Foundation Trust

University of Manchester and Birla Institute of Technology and Science

Union Education Group Ltd (UEG) and WOWL Edtech Pvt Ltd (WOWL)



# Partnership with the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women

In partnership with the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, we are reviewing the English curriculum and leading a capacity building initiative to enhance the communicative skills of learners and teaching methodology of faculty under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme.

The programme, which focuses on government stakeholders and rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years, will improve English communicative skills for nearly 50,000 marginalised youth.

#### **Digital resources for teachers**

We support the professional development of individual teachers and teacher educators through the world's largest online English teacher community. The development resources we create are flexible, reflective and easy-to-access, so teachers can continue their professional development.

The Teaching English website platform has the maximum number of visits from teachers in India (almost 3 times) than any other country in our global network.



100,000

teachers in India have benefitted from our digital CPD activities this year.



#### Resources

include newsletters, webinars, online workshops, free online resources

### **Libraries**

Our libraries in Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata, are vibrant community and cultural spaces where members can learn, interact with others, attend workshops - all while exploring books and other resources.



The British Council Library has evolved into a cultural hub offering more than just books and is a space for ideation, collaboration and learning. The British Council Digital Library gives access to

### over 80,000

ever-expanding resources under one annual subscription on mobile using myLoft app or on the laptop.



The library has also partnered with the **India National Digital** library (NDLI) with

6,000+

daily users accessing our free resources



145k

reached face-to-face and online



Digital library memberships

14k



4,000

**Enrolments for** library programmes



Growth in overall library memberships **English for learners** 

We help young Indians across the country to enhance their career and educational opportunities and global connections.



taught online and



**Young learners** 

5,630+

taught online and face-to-face

14,274

young and adult learners and professionals reached through our face-to-face network of Teaching Centres in Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata and through our online English and skills courses





### **Audience reach**

Total reached

30.5m

Face-to-face reached

3.1m

Reached through social media, publications and broadcast

**26m** 

Organisations engaged across the country

1,527

Schools engaged

531

Students engaged

503k

Teachers engaged

134k

Teacher educators, trainers engaged

**783** 

Researchers engaged

553

Higher/Further education leaders engaged

226

Indian students supported to study in the UK

121k

27

### **About us**

We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide.

We uniquely combine the UK's deep expertise in arts and culture, education and the English language, our global presence and relationships in over 100 countries, our unparalleled access to young people and influencers and our creative sparkle.

We work directly with individuals to help them gain the skills, confidence and connections to transform their lives and shape a better world in partnership with the UK. We support them to build networks and explore creative ideas, to learn English, to get a high-quality education and to gain internationally recognised qualifications.

We work with governments and our partners in the education, English language and cultural sectors, in the UK and globally. Working together we make a bigger difference, creating benefit for millions of people all over the world.

We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2022–23 we reached 600 million people.

### **Contact**

#### **British Council**

17 Kasturba Gandhi Marg New Delhi 110 001

#### **British Council**

737 Anna Salai Chennai 600 002

#### **British Council**

L & T Chambers, First Floor 16 Camac Street Kolkata 700 017

#### **British Council**

Office 1, DBS Business Center 901, Tower 1C, One World Centre, Lower Parel (W) Mumbai 400 013

Phone: 0120-4569000 / 6684353

www.britishcouncil.in



The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.