



Political Sketchbook

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Alpesh Patel

A Royal Visit for Closer UK India Relations

As Senior Dealmaker for the British Government's Global Entrepreneur Programme I am responsible for India and China and I was about to have the best day of my 10 years in the role.

Showing the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in India around some of the most innovative companies, I broke the world record on the quickest funding for a company - 60seconds.

Here's the story. The Royals arrived at a social entrepreneur centre in Mumbai. I had two jobs. Show them around the Venture Capitalists from the UK who were on the delegation, led by the Head of the British Government's Venture Capital Unit, Aekta Patel (aka by coincidence, my wife). "These British investors put money into British companies which solve some of the world's and therefore India's biggest problems in climate change, education, energy." I explained to the Duke and Duchess as I introduced them to my wife.

Then it was time for my next role - go on stage and introduce four Indian companies and do a quick fire Q&A with Anand Mahindra and Mohandas Pai - a bit like Dragons Den. This was all part of the UK Government's Tech Rocketships Campaign which the Duke launched moments earlier.

My role for the British Government is to find the most innovative companies through competitions like this and help them go Global from the UK through my networks. The company I managed to get the funding for in record time was Project Mudra - teaching the world's blind to learn braille through a machine made in India.

Anand Mahindra agreed to fund then the other angels followed. This one company was an ideal example of UK - India collaboration. Made in India, but going global from Britain. Why did they choose the UK? The founder explained it that although 50 US Venture Capital funds



were going to meet them a week later, only the British Government through UKTI and the British Deputy High Commissions in Bangalore and Mumbai were so totally engaged and committed.

Job done - thanks all to my colleagues in UKTI and the Foreign Office! What people don't realise about the Royals is this: As for the Royal couple, it is striking how much in love they are - from the glances they give each other, to how much the Duke cares for the Duchess through small touches. As natural introverts they are definitely in their element undertaking purposeful work solving society's major problems rather than glitz and glam parties - and we made sure they knew the companies our venture capitalists were funding were British companies looking to solve some of India's and the world's biggest problems in environment, energy, healthcare.

They kindly hosted at Kensington Palace an event before they left for India for among others, some of the companies I've brought from India to the UK such as Desolanator turning sunshine into clean water - they wanted a small discrete event; which says so much about them.

And for me - there is no greater work than work representing your country and helping in your small way solve societies biggest problems. What a week.

Figures reveal huge rise in homelessness amongst ethnic minorities

New analysis of government data has revealed a huge rise in homelessness amongst ethnic minorities. While the Department for Work and Pensions claim that 670,000

33% increase in homelessness across all ethnic groups. The government has claimed that 62% of the ethnic minority population aged 16-24 were in full-time education or work in

in 2010. The number of Black or Black British people made homeless has increased by 52% since 2010, while the number of homeless Asians and British Asians has dou-

A Guide to the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) Visa Route



Shyam Dhir

In this article Shyam Dhir discusses options available to non-EEA skilled migrants to either enter or remain in the UK, who may be recognised as 'exceptional' in the field of: Science; Engineering; Humanities; Medicine; Digital technology and the Arts.

The category of Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) under the Points Based System allows migrants to either enter or remain in the United Kingdom (UK) for a period of up to 5 years.

This route is open to certain applicants making an in-country application and overseas migrants who are thinking of applying to enter the UK to work and further their respective field of work. The category recognises individuals with:

- World leading talent; or
- Exceptional promise to be world leading in their field of work.

The criteria is specific for each designated endorsing body, a common trend amongst all the bodies is that they require documentary evidence by way of reference letters from third parties. These references must highlight the applicants' skills and confirm that they are someone with either world leading talent or someone with exceptional promise to be world leading in their field. In our experience such letters are provided by professors, senior managers, etc.

This route can be broken down and summarised in two stages:

Stage 1:

Firstly, an application must be submitted to the Home Office for 'Endorsement' with the relevant designated body. The application must be supported with a comprehensive list of supporting documents which each relevant body sets out.

Applications are then sent by the Home Office to the designated body for consideration for endorsement. Once a decision is made, the Home Office is informed of whether the relevant requirements for endorsement have

been met. If successful, the applicant is then issued a letter confirming a grant of an endorsement.

Stage 2:

Once the applicant obtains the endorsement, a further application must be submitted to the Home Office for the applicant's visa application.

The Home Office authorises 1000 endorsements per year which is divided almost equally between the designated bodies. This category isn't widely used by applicants and may be due to a lack of awareness. Tech City UK which is the Home Office approved designated body for engineers only received 38 applications from April 2015 - January 2016 out of an allocated limit of 200[1]. This is less than 25% of the spaces being used. Any remaining spaces are not carried on to the following year and are therefore simply discarded.

An application for Endorsement with a Designated body (Stage 1 above) is not an Immigration application and form part of an applicant's immigration history. Even, if such an application is refused, it should not go against the applicant's immigration history when submitting any applications to enter or remain in the UK in the future.

The Home Office fee for an endorsement application is currently £287. A decision is usually made within 3 weeks.

It is worth noting that after 5 years in that this category, an application may be submitted for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK subject to meeting the relevant requirements.

Our advice to those individuals who may be eligible to apply under this category is to seek advice as to merits and all being well, to submit an application.

Duncan Lewis is currently assisting a number of clients who are submitting applications under this route. We have had a number of successful applications for individuals in the past in areas such as Technology, Sciences and Arts.

Shyam has a track record of representing clients under this route. He can be contacted on 0203 114 1271 or by email at shyamd@duncanlewis.com where he is happy to have an initial discussion with potential applicants.

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Ethnic minorities make up 14% of the population, but account for over a third (34%) a failure to tackle soaring private rents. John Healey MP have had a particularly harsh impact on marginalised groups. David Cameron's