

## **NASSCOM STATEMENT ON UK'S REVISED VISA POLICY FOR NON-EU NATIONALS**

NASSCOM today expressed disappointment at the decision of the UK government to implement proposed changes to the UK visa system that will affect skilled IT migration.

NASSCOM does recognise that these are changes the UK government has been committed to for some months, and their implementation is not a huge surprise. However, it is important to note that our fast growing and high value tech sectors rely upon an effective immigration policy that attracts high-skilled workers and minimises barriers to the flow of talented people between our two countries. Indian IT companies play a key role in driving the UK's growth and prosperity by significantly enhancing productivity and global competitiveness of British businesses, contributing to overall growth and job creation of the UK economy.

We intend to focus on the opportunities which Prime Minister May's forthcoming visit offers for a fresh approach to skilled IT migration as part of a possibly new India-UK trade agreement, matters which we were able to raise directly with UK government ministers and business leaders in London last month.

Such an agreement will benefit the economies of both countries:

- A system that restricts the UK's ability to access talent is also likely to restrict the growth and productivity of the UK economy. The UK needs to have the right policies in place to encourage valuable temporary immigration, and minimise barriers to the flow of talented people;
- NASSCOM and its members are committed to working with the UK government and its agencies to build the IT skills base in the UK in order to demonstrate the cross-fertilisation that will benefit the UK in an increasingly globalised economy
- Our key ask to both Governments is for a high skilled worker mobility agreement, along with an agreement on the free movement of data. The movement of skilled tech workers from India should be seen as a trade priority rather than an immigration issue. Temporary placement of highly-skilled individuals into the UK provides a significant economic boost yet has a negligible impact on net migration.

India and UK have been natural business allies, and enjoy a continued association, where free movement of skilled talent is the cornerstone of growth. The relationship between the UK and the Indian ICT sector has seen a step change in recent years and our shared goal of being global centres for innovation make the UK and India natural partners in technology. We will continue to urge the UK government to realise that both countries stand to benefit massively from a fresh trade-based approach.