

# BACK BORIS

Dear Friends

I have always been a big supporter of the Conservative Friends of India, and it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to write to you all at this crucial time.

Our relationship with India is one of the most important for our country. I have always valued that relationship and the strong cultural and economic ties that bind our countries together.

As Foreign Secretary I visited India and have a personal relationship with Prime Minister Modi and members of his administration. I have also visited the amazing businesses and representatives from civil society that make India such a great country that is a growing global power. When I was with Prime Minister Modi I stressed that the UK and India are two modern democracies who should work closely together to promote trade and prosperity, improve global security and tackled the challenges our countries face. If I am elected Conservative Party Leader and Prime Minister I will work closely with our friends in the Indian Government, business and society to deliver a truly special UK-India relationship.

My commitment to UK-India relations runs deep. While I was Mayor of London I also had the privilege to visit India to promote cultural and economic relations. I saw how important it was to ensure that we have a fair and balanced immigration system, which means our friends, family members and business contacts in India do not face undue discrimination or barriers when seeking to work, travel or study in the UK. This is why I have called for a new Australian style points based system that will not discriminate against anyone from a given region.

One of the most important reasons why we need to leave the European Union on 31st October 2019 is so that we can take back control over our trade policy. India is an economic powerhouse and set to become the third largest economy by the middle of the century, with annual economic growth far out-pacing the EU. For over a decade the EU has been discussing a possible trade deal with India, but it has been a travesty that the EU has not treated this as a priority and has pushed the relationship with India to the sidelines. Their pitiful efforts have led to no progress being made while frustrating our friends in India.

If the UK remains in the EU beyond 31st October then there is a risk that new trade and investment opportunities will be lost. That is unacceptable. The sooner we leave the EU and take back control of our trade policy the sooner we can strike a new trade deal with India that will deliver new jobs, growth and prosperity for both our countries.

Securing this new and improved trading relationship with our friends in India will be a priority for me, but our relationship with India should run deeper than trade. We share so many values with India – the rule of law, democracy, and dynamic entrepreneurial spirit – and I believe that is why India should be one of our most important partners on the global stage.

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I also recognise the important role that the 1.5 million strong Indian Diaspora in the UK play in cementing our relationship with India and in making a fantastic contribution to our country. We have businesses, sports clubs, civil society groups and charities binding our two countries together and as Prime Minister I will do all I can to grow and foster those ties.

I have been privileged to visit many Temples and Gurdwaras and see the way religious community leaders reach out to all who live and work around them. I pay tribute to the amazing work that goes on which have made Temples and Gurdwaras more than places of worship but also community hubs

It is fantastic that we have members of the Indian Diaspora in leadership positions in all sectors of our economy, in our public services and in political life. I am committed to ensure that there are no barriers to people fulfilling their potential and will work with the Diaspora communities to strengthen the role you play and the great contribution you make to our country.

Thank you for all that you do for our party.

**You can find out more about my campaign and show your support at: [www.backboris.com](http://www.backboris.com)**

**I also welcome your ideas and comments, which can be sent to me at: [www.tellboris.co.uk](http://www.tellboris.co.uk)**

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Boris Johnson', written in a cursive style.

**The Rt Hon. Boris Johnson MP**

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