**Mumbai: Tata Institute of Fundamental Research**

* Been in India since Wednesday – one of the first things I did was launch the 2016 UK-India year of Education, Science and Technology:
* A year-long campaign
* More than 25 events
* Highlighting the strength and mutual benefits of our education ties.
* Helping to build new ones.
* Tata Institute of Fundamental Research is a great example of that partnership at work in diverse fields:
* Working with the **University of Leicester** on India’s first astronomy satellite, launched in September.
* Working with the **UK’s Central Laser Facility** to explore healthcare and energy issues.
* Working with **Oxford University** in 2013 on Carbon Flux measurements in Island Rainforest Ecosystems
* Value of research between the UK and India is soaring:
* Less than £1 million in 2008
* More than £200 million today
* We want to see more successes like that – so PMs Cameron and Modi announced plans for a dedicated £50 million Newton-Bhabha fund for joint research, capacity building and translation
* The Newton-Bhabha gets half of its name from the great
**Dr Homi J Bhabha**:
* Studied in the UK
* Founded this very institution
* Fitting that in 2015 he lends his name to a programme that brings British and Indian innovators together once more.
* Three reasons why you should follow in Dr Bhabha’s footsteps and come to study in the UK
* **First reason: the quality of the education.**
* The UK is home to some of the world’s best universities.
* Four of the world’s top 10
* 30 of the world’s top 200
* **Breadth and depth of excellence** in many fields.
* UK is a place where academic excellence meets innovative education.
* **92 per cent** of postgraduate students in the UK rate the quality of teaching positively.
* But don’t just take other people’s word for it: you can try out content from nearly 30 top UK universities, for free, on MOOC platform **FutureLearn.** Nearly three million people already have.
* **Second reason: the quality of the experience**
* There’s nowhere quite like Britain:
* **Culture:** music, museums, galleries, festivals, theatre.
* **Sport:** Anyone here a Man Utd fan?
* **History and heritage:** From Stonehenge to
Giant’s Causeway to Edinburgh Castle
* And you get a truly international experience: the UK is a diverse, multicultural society.
* A **home from home,** with a large Indian diaspora. Recently saw huge Diwali celebrations in Trafalgar Square and in communities across the country.
* America has some great universities, it’s true. But do you really want to spend the best years of your life in a country that doesn’t understand cricket?
* And take it from one who knows – I’ve tried a lot of so-called Indian food everywhere from Singapore to Moscow, and apart from India, it’s hard to beat the UK!
* **Third reason: the long-term benefits for you**
* You get a better education for less outlay.
* **British degrees are normally shorter** than in other countries, three year undergraduate, one year Masters.
* The **fees are generally less in the UK than in the US or Australia**: HSBC research said the UK was the cheapest of the most common study destinations.
* A recent survey found that UK degrees are highly valued internationally: **a passport to global success**.
* Graduates of Oxford and Cambridge were rated the most employable in the world
* LSE, Imperial College London and the University of Manchester all made the top ten.
* And here in India, UK-educated graduates achieve an average starting salary **three times larger** than those who qualify here.
* **Studying in the UK is an amazing, life-changing experience.** And the UK government wants to make sure the best Indian students have the opportunity to enjoy it.
* Chevening is the British Government’s flagship global scholarship programme. There are more than 2,000 Chevening alumni in India, an incredible network to be a part of.
* India is home to the world’s largest Chevening programme:
* **£2.6 million** budget for 2015-16, that’s about **a quarter of a billion rupees**.
* Around **65 fully-funded scholarships** for one-year Master’s programmes in any subject at a recognised UK university for graduates.
* Around **65 short-term, thematic bespoke programmes** at designated UK universities for mid-to-senior level professionals in the fields of journalism, cyber-security, leadership and management and science and innovation.
* A new fellowship program on **Financial Services** has been announced and is expected to be introduced early next year.
* But that’s not the only help available:
* The British Council offers 400 **GREAT scholarships** each year.
* **Commonwealth Scholarships,** funded by the Department for International Development, support 75 Indian postgraduate students each year
* The UK offers a warm welcome to prospective students.
* **Nearly nine out of 10 visa applications** from overseas students are approved.
* Only citizens of the USA and China receive more student visas than India.
* **Top graduates are able to stay in the UK if they secure a graduate job**: in the year ending 2013, over 4,000 students switched to a work visa.
* So it’s no surprise that the UK attracts **more overseas students than any other country** except the US – including more than 20,000 from India.
* Happy to take any questions you may have – but the real question is why wouldn’t you want to study in the UK?!