

COP26 President visits India to welcome climate leadership

- Alok Sharma travelled to India in his first visit to Asia as full-time COP26 President
- The COP26 President met India's Prime Minister as well as leaders from government, business and civil society to discuss shared aims
- He welcomed India's renewable power ambitions and visited a rooftop solar plant

COP26 President Designate the Right Honourable Alok Sharma MP travelled to India to strengthen close working ties and discuss taking action on the shared challenge of climate change.

While visiting the country this week Mr Sharma saw firsthand India's ambitious work on renewable energy, and held vital discussions with government leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, businesses and civil society.

He also used this opportunity to build on the positive work India and the UK are doing together ahead of COP26 in Glasgow this November.

Mr Sharma congratulated Prime Minister Modi on his personal leadership on climate action and his recent commitment to deliver 450GW of renewable energy by 2030.

On his two-day visit to Delhi, Mr Sharma also welcomed Prime Minister Modi's global leadership in setting up the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, which the UK co-chairs.

During his visit Mr Sharma held meetings with leading thinkers and civil society to discuss India's strong approach to tackling climate change and improving global resilience.

He also talked to business leaders, highlighting the opportunities presented by a low carbon economy, and encouraging influential businesses such as Dalmia Cement to promote their efforts to introduce science-based net zero emissions targets.

Speaking at the end of his visit, Alok Sharma said:

I am inspired by the resolve I have seen this week across Indian Government and wider society to tackle the impacts of climate change. This visit has bolstered our already strong partnership with India which is important as we look ahead to COP26.

I firmly believe that powerful action from India will be a catalyst for change, encouraging others to be more ambitious in their approaches to protecting both people and planet.

Mr Sharma also met senior leaders from the Indian Government including Minister of External Affairs, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh, Sherpa to the G7 and G20, Suresh Prabhu, and India's lead climate negotiator, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar.

Mr Sharma and Mr Javadekar discussed a number of initiatives being driven forward by India to reduce emissions and adapt to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Helping communities and countries adapt to the worst effects of climate change by stepping up access to funding and expertise for resilience and adaptation is a priority for the UK COP26 Presidency. During his visit Mr Sharma stressed the need for partners around the world to meet their climate finance commitments.

Mr Sharma visited the India Habitat Center where a UK Development Capital-funded rooftop solar installation is helping to save approximately £20,000 (more than 20 Lakh Rupees) and reduce 300 tons of CO2 emissions per year through a 250 kWp rooftop Photovoltaic plant.

Alok Sharma added:

We want to use COP26 to drive forward a global shift towards renewable energy, and so I'm delighted to have seen this pioneering UK-India climate collaboration in action.

India is showing impressive leadership when it comes to renewable power and I hope other countries will look to this example and think big ahead of COP26. India's expertise will be of tremendous value to global discussions around clean energy transition.

A read-out of the COP26 President's meeting with Prime Minister Modi is available on [GOV.UK](#).

Ends.

Notes to editors:

1. As host of COP26, the UK is setting a strong example on climate action, with a legally binding target to cut emissions to net zero by 2050. Between 1990 and 2018, the UK nearly halved emissions whilst growing the economy by 75%, and will cut coal use in the power sector entirely by 2025.
2. The UK has committed to double its International Climate Finance to at least £11.6bn over the next five years, to help developing countries to take action.
3. In November the UK will host the UN climate change conference COP26 in Glasgow, with our partners, Italy. This will provide an opportunity for the world to come together and commit to urgent action.
4. The UK will lead by example during this unprecedented time. Guided by

science, the UK will invest in a green recovery which creates sustainable jobs and addresses the urgent and linked challenges of public health, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

5. The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire action ahead of COP26.

Second rapid testing pilot starts at Southwark Crown Court

- Government-backed rapid testing pilot to run for four weeks at Southwark court
- Partnership supports national workplace testing programme run by NHS Test and Trace to help protect people most at risk
- Findings will determine how rapid testing could be rolled out to courts and tribunals nationally

From this week, and for the next four weeks, lateral flow tests will be offered to people attending a scheduled hearing at Southwark Crown Court who are not showing any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). The test will be offered to all staff, judiciary, jurors, contractors, legal professionals, and professional court users who visit the site. It will not be a public testing facility.

The opening of this rapid testing pilot site follows the [first pilot](#) that started in January 2021 at Manchester Civil Justice Centre (CJC). In the first week of testing at Manchester CJC, more than 160 tests were carried out, which were all negative.

Around one in three people who are infected with COVID-19 have no symptoms, so could be spreading the disease without knowing it. Broadening testing to identify those showing no symptoms will mean finding positive cases more quickly and preventing the spread of infection. Each positive result from a rapid test is one that would not have been found otherwise, helping break chains of transmission in our communities and workplaces and protecting those at highest risk.

As with Manchester, the Southwark pilot will support the NHS Test and Trace national testing programme by providing information on how rapid testing works in different public sector settings. HMCTS will use findings to decide how rapid testing could be rolled out nationally to other courts and tribunals across the country.

Kevin Sadler, Acting CEO of HMCTS, said:

“Justice is essential to all those who need it – from vulnerable victims to

families in crisis, witnesses and defendants – and courts and tribunals have been operating throughout the pandemic.

“This second rapid test pilot is in addition to a suite of safety measures already in place to keep court visitors safe.”

Health Minister Lord Bethell said:

“We’ve already come so far since first setting up a national testing programme at an unprecedented pace to help counter COVID-19, but we continue to strive to go further, faster.

“Lateral flow tests hold the key to the next phase of our ambition to see rapid testing available to people across the country.

“I’m delighted that HM Courts & Tribunals Service are working with us to use the latest technology in Southwark Crown Court, and I look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour, both in helping target the virus locally, and helping find ways to roll this technology out further.”

Baroness Dido Harding, Interim Executive Chair of the National Institute for Health Protection, said:

“The innovation and evolution of NHS Test and Trace continues to improve our detection of positive cases and I am incredibly proud of the speed at which we have been able to roll out these initiatives to protect more people more quickly. This is a national effort and a partnership of public and private sectors is instrumental in our response to this virus.

“Around one in three people with COVID-19 don’t display symptoms, meaning you can infect others unknowingly. This rapid testing programme with HM Courts & Tribunals Service is one of many that will inform our understanding of how rapid asymptomatic testing can be operationalised in the real world to protect those at high risk, find the virus and help us go back to as normal a way of life as possible.”

All Southwark Crown Court users will be given the opportunity to book a test slot. Users will be asked to register their details on the NHS portal using their smartphone or a registered device. The tests being carried out are lateral flow devices. Specially trained staff who manage the testing site will supervise the tests and process the results.

Lateral flow tests used by the UK Government go through a rigorous evaluation by the country’s leading scientists. Tests detect cases with high levels of virus, making them effective in finding infectious individuals who aren’t showing any symptoms and are the most likely to transmit the disease.

The tests are voluntary and detect the presence or absence of coronavirus by applying a swab or saliva sample to the device’s absorbent pad. The sample runs along the surface of the pad, showing at the end a visual positive or negative result dependent on the presence of the virus.

Once the test has been taken, NHS Test and Trace will send results by text or

email after about 30 minutes. If the test gives a positive result, the court user will be required to leave the court, return home quickly and directly, and follow NHS advice on self-isolating. Court users are encouraged to contact us, and to let us know as soon as possible if a positive test result is received.

There are practical issues to resolve before any wider roll out of testing in courts and tribunals occurs – not least space, staffing and supply of equipment. We will provide updates as soon as our plans evolve.

Every building we operate – including our [Nightingale courts](#) – meet the government's COVID-secure guidelines, and public health experts have confirmed our arrangements remain sufficient to deal with the new strain of the virus.

For media enquiries about the mass testing programme please contact the DHSC media centre.

1. England only – Anyone testing positive for the virus in England will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to help them trace their contacts. This will help people to identify who they may have been in close contact with, protecting others from further transmission. Close contacts of those testing positive will also hear from NHS Test and Trace, asking them to stay at home for 10 days to prevent them from unknowingly spreading the virus.
2. See further information on rapid workplace testing [here](#)
3. See latest testing statistics [here](#)
4. Lateral flow tests used by the UK government go through a rigorous evaluation by the country's leading scientists.
5. LFDs detect cases with high levels of virus, making them effective in finding individuals who are the most likely to transmit the disease, including those not showing symptoms.
6. Rapid testing has a different, but crucial role to play in the fight against coronavirus, and should not be directly compared to lab-based PCR tests which are available for anyone with coronavirus symptoms. They complement PCR testing (which identifies almost all cases including those with very low viral loads and has capacity to process over 800,000 tests a day) by returning a result almost immediately within 30 minutes and finding positive cases with high levels of virus that are easy to transmit to others.
7. Extensive clinical evaluation from Public Health England and the University of Oxford research shows lateral flow tests are specific and sensitive enough to be deployed for mass testing, including for asymptomatic people. The Oxford University and Public Health evaluation is available [here](#)
8. Rapid testing in the workplace, using lateral flow tests, aims to help protect those at highest risk and provide vital information to help inform further rollout of the rapid testing technology in future. Organisations signed up to workplace testing already include Royal Mail, Tate & Lyle Sugars, Primula, Moy Park, Octopus Energy, Apetito, and DVLA.
9. Hundreds of thousands of these tests are already being carried out every

day, with the majority taking place at dedicated test sites for people without symptoms, which can be found in a range of community settings such as universities, schools, care homes and workplaces.

10. Please see words from Chief Medical Adviser for NHS Test and Trace, Susan Hopkins on lateral flow tests: [10 January](#) and [8 December](#)

Advisory Committee on Business Appointments publishes Annual Report 2018-2019 & 2019-2020

Press release

The independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has today published its annual report for 2018-2019 & 2019-2020



The independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has today published its annual report for 2018-2019 & 2019-2020.

[The report is available here using this link.](#)

Applications advised on during this period and taken up have already been published on the Committee's website.

- Media enquiries about the work of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments should go to Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627.
- The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments is a non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Cabinet Office. Members are appointed by the Prime Minister.
- The Committee provides advice on applications from former Ministers, Permanent Secretaries (and their equivalents) Directors-General (and their equivalents) for any new paid or unpaid appointment within 2 years of leaving ministerial office or Crown service. Applications from all other levels of Crown servant are handled by their employing

departments.

- More information about the work of the Committee is available on its [website](#).

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How we investigate unmanned aircraft

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Fines handed to Eastbourne security officers for infringement of the Private Security Industry Act

Press release

Two door supervisors were recently sentenced at Lewes Crown Court.



It followed their guilty pleas for working without a licence at a popular Eastbourne family restaurant; this is a breach of the Private Security Industry Act (PSIA) 2001. The prosecutions were brought by the Security

Industry Authority (SIA).

Edward Chi-Mon Chung, from Eastbourne was ordered to pay a £1,000 fine and a Proceeds of Crime confiscation order of £10,118.60. He was ordered to pay £1,095 within three months of the date of his sentence on 08 January 2021.

Reyano Leon, from Bromley was fined £500. He was handed a Proceeds of Crime confiscation order of £5,670.49 and was required to pay £500.77 by 22 January 2021.

Nathan Salmon, the SIA's criminal investigations manager, said:

Chung and Leon were unlicensed. They knew they were unlicensed, and they paid a heavy penalty for their criminality. They have also incurred criminal records. These men were working illegally and betrayed the trust of the venue whose customers comprise families and young people.

Chung and Leon appeared at Hastings Magistrates' Court last July. Chung pleaded guilty to working as an unlicensed security operative on 106 occasions at the Eastbourne venue. He worked illegally right up to the moment on 08 January 2020 when the SIA's Criminal Investigation Team sent him a letter inviting him to Eastbourne Police Station for a formal interview.

Reyano Leon also pleaded guilty at Hastings Magistrates' Court in July to working as an unlicensed security operative 91 times at the same venue. Leon worked between 31 May 2019 and 29 September 2019 despite his SIA licence expiring on 23 March 2019.

Sussex Police passed the case onto the SIA following an assault on a patron at the restaurant. SIA investigators identified the level of criminality by checking the signing-in book at the venue. Further checks revealed that Chung and Leon had been working at various venues in the Eastbourne area on behalf of their employer without the correct SIA licenses being in place.

Notes to editors:

1. By law, security operatives working under contract must hold and display a valid SIA licence. Information about [SIA enforcement and penalties](#) can be found on GOV.UK.
2. The offence relating to the Private Security Industry Act (2001) that is mentioned in the above news release is: Section 3 – working without a licence.
3. [Read the Private Security Industry Act 2001](#)
4. [The Proceeds of Crime Act \(POCA\)](#) sets out the legislative scheme for the

recovery of criminal assets with criminal confiscation being the most commonly used power. Confiscation occurs after a conviction has taken place.

Further information:

- The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Our main duties are: the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities; and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme.
- For further information about the Security Industry Authority visit www.gov.uk/sia. The SIA is also on [Facebook](#) (Security Industry Authority) and [Twitter](#) (SIAuk).
- Media enquiries only please contact: 0300 123 9869, media.enquiries@sia.gov.uk

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