



**BRITISH TAMIL  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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# NEWSLETTER

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## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. In this issue, we share highlights of our recent activities, updates on ongoing projects, and a look ahead at what's to come. Our aim is to keep you well-informed and connected, while celebrating the achievements and contributions that shape our community.

We hope you enjoy reading, and as always, we value your continued support and feedback.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

The BTCC Annual General Meeting was successfully held on 27th June at Banana Leaf, Ilford. Committee members came together to review key initiatives, reflect on our achievements, and discuss plans for the year ahead.

A major highlight of the meeting was the discussion around London Tamil Market 2025, where ideas were shared to make the event even more engaging and impactful.

We are also pleased to announce the newly elected committee for 2025/2026, who will lead BTCC with dedication and enthusiasm. We thank the outgoing committee for their invaluable contributions and warmly welcome the new team stepping into their roles.

## NEW COMMITTEE 2025/2026



## DEEPAVALI LUNCH EVENT - OCTOBER 2025



The British Tamil Chamber of Commerce (BTCC), in collaboration with The British Malaysian Society and The RISE, hosted a vibrant Deepavali Celebration Lunch on Saturday, 18th October 2025, at Crystal Wembley.

The event brought together professionals, community leaders, and guests from diverse backgrounds to celebrate the spirit of Deepavali – a festival symbolising light, hope, and togetherness. The occasion was graced by Guest of Honour, Barry Gardiner MP, Chief Guest, the Mayor of Brent, Councillor Ryan Hack, and Special Guest, Councillor Ketan Sheth. Their presence added prestige to an afternoon filled with joy, cultural performances, and meaningful connections.



Guests were treated to a rich line-up of Indian dances, songs, and musical recitals, followed by a charity auction and raffle draw that supported community initiatives. The celebration concluded with a delectable spread of Indian and Sri Lankan cuisine, bringing everyone together in the warmth of the festive season.

The BTCC extends heartfelt thanks to all attendees, sponsors, and volunteers, especially HSBC UK — for making this event a memorable success.

## BTCC

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Held a meeting with the Australian Tamil Chamber of Commerce to discuss collaboration opportunities.
- Held a strategic meeting with the Tamil Economic Forum - Switzerland on an upcoming MoU.
- Relunched the membership drive to expand BTCC's member base.
- Initiated the preparation work for LTM 2026.

## SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

'Design Arts' from Jaffna took part in London Tamil Market 2025 and has since received increased orders from the UK after showcasing their business at the event. LTM continues to be a strong platform for businesses—especially small and medium Tamil enterprises—to gain visibility and grow.

Your business could be next.....

**#LTM 2026 is set to be bigger and better than ever, taking place at an exciting new venue. Bookings open soon. Stay tuned!**

## OTHER NEWS

- **Electricity Cost Cut for Industry** - From April 2026, UK businesses in energy-intensive sectors will receive electricity bill reductions under a new £420 million government scheme. While niche, Tamil manufacturers and suppliers connected to these industries could benefit from indirect cost relief.

- **Small Businesses Face Energy Volatility** - With price cap adjustments and changing supplier rates, many SMEs continue to face high energy bills. businesses in food, hospitality, or retail should review contracts regularly and consider energy efficiency options this winter.
- **British Gas Offers Half-Price Electricity** - British Gas has reintroduced a half-price electricity scheme for business customers during off-peak hours in December. This could provide short-term relief for retail shops, small kitchens, or event spaces with flexible working hours.
- **UK-India Trade Deal Finalised** - The UK-India Free Trade Agreement, signed in mid-2025, will reduce tariffs and simplify trade procedures. Tamil-owned businesses involved in food, textiles, jewellery, or services could benefit from increased import/export opportunities and easier market access.
- **Budget 2025: Business Costs in Focus** - The Autumn Budget introduced changes to business rates and tax allowances. SMEs in retail and property sectors may experience cost increases. business owners are advised to review their cash flow and prepare for tighter margins going into 2026.

## **UK Autumn Budget 2025 – Summary for Small Business and Community Stakeholders**

The Chancellor delivered the Autumn Budget 2025 with a focus on balancing economic stability with targeted investment. Below is a summary of key announcements relevant to small businesses, entrepreneurs, and community leaders:

### **1. Business Rates and Tax**

Small Business Rates Relief will continue for another year, helping thousands of small retail, hospitality, and high-street businesses.

Business Rates revaluation will go ahead in April 2026, with some transitional relief provided to avoid sharp increases.

Corporation Tax remains at 25% for large businesses. Smaller businesses with profits under £50,000 continue to pay a lower rate.

### **2. National Insurance and Employment**

Employer National Insurance thresholds will rise slightly in April 2026, giving a small boost to businesses with employees.

A new Apprenticeship Start-Up Grant has been announced to encourage SMEs to hire and train young workers.

### 3. Energy and Utilities

No new wide-scale energy support was announced, but the government urged small businesses to use new commercial efficiency schemes.

Tax breaks for green investment (e.g. solar panels, insulation) extended to March 2027.

### 4. Innovation and Investment

A new £1.5 billion Growth Fund has been launched for regional development, with priority given to high-growth small firms and innovation-led sectors.

Full expensing for capital investment (e.g. equipment, tech, fit-outs) is now permanent—this allows businesses to deduct 100% of qualifying spend from profits.

### 5. Personal Tax and Self-Employed

The Income Tax threshold remains frozen, meaning more people will move into higher bands over time due to inflation.

Class 2 National Insurance for the self-employed has been abolished from April 2026, slightly reducing overall tax bills for freelancers and sole traders.

*We wish You a Merry Christmas &  
a Happy New year!*



## Contact us

