


75
achievers
CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

LIVING BRIDGE

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MEET THE INCREDIBLE
YOUNG INDIAN ACHIEVERS
RESHAPING THE WORLD





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Season of Culture



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A message from the Mayor of London



I would like to congratulate the students and alumni who chose to study in the UK and have been recognised by the India UK Achievers Honours for their exceptional work and contributions to society.

I am proud that our city is full of opportunities, where it's possible to succeed with hard work and determination.

I visited India on a trade mission in 2017 with the aim of strengthening and celebrating London's links with the country, which are so important. I will continue to do all I can to ensure businesses in London can access talent from India and around the world, and that the UK is able to attract international students, and offer post-study opportunities.

London's strength is its diversity and I will continue to ensure our city remains a welcoming place to students and alumni from India. Together, we can continue to build a better London for everyone – a safer, fairer, greener and more prosperous city for all.

Sadiq Khan, The Mayor of London



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Meet the incredible young achievers reshaping the world

Foreword

Dear Readers,

India and the UK stand on the cusp of historic transformation. The story of the UK and the world's biggest democracy is long and complex. But as India enters its 75th year since independence, the future is no longer only shaped by the past, but by the talent and purpose of a new generation facing new and often global challenges. Our relationship is no longer unequal but has been elevated to a strategic partnership founded on respect and mutual benefit. As I write, the sixth round of talks for the much-awaited Free Trade Agreement have just been concluded, a milestone that promises to usher in a new age of prosperity and friendship between our two great countries. It is fitting also that, at such a moment, the UK is led by its first ever Prime Minister of Indian heritage. Times, indeed, have changed. Now, there are new questions about the future in a changed global order shaped by different problems requiring solutions across national boundaries. The ambition is that together we can be a global force for good, setting a benchmark for modern collaboration that aligns the Global South and the Global North as equal partners. This is no casual dream. Our world demands nothing less as we face problems not limited by geography or economics. We saw, with the Covid-19 pandemic, the devastation caused by a foe that knows no borders. But we also witnessed resilience and an unparalleled research and innovation partnership between our two nations that arguably saved millions of lives, globally. It is such partnerships across sectors between India and the UK which will be needed for what lies ahead - and at the core of the capacity the world needs from us is education. In the UK, we have serious challenges in finding skilled manpower from hospitality to healthcare. An enhanced immigration regime, which matches need to talent, can create opportunities for Indian graduates who have studied in the UK.

We know through NISAU's own research and experiences with Indian students the majority of Indian students would like to stay on in the UK for some years to find meaningful work experiences before eventually returning home. This presents a wonderful opportunity for mutual benefit.

The UK's short to medium term skills gaps can be plugged by providing a simplified education-to-employment system for Indians who have studied here. Upon their return to India, such highly trained graduates would in turn contribute significantly to their home nation by bringing in global best practice.

The graduate route, for which we at NISAU campaigned for more than 7 years, is a start. But we need to do so much more. We must begin with a consistent policy on international students which recognises their true importance to the UK. International students, of which Indians are the biggest cohort, bring in net annual economic benefits of £30 billion to the British economy. For every international student, two jobs are created, the majority of the benefits of which are felt domestically. International students subsidise the research that takes place in our universities by one pound in every four, cross subsidising our 'science

It is such partnerships across sectors between India and the UK which will be needed for what lies ahead - and at the core of the capacity the world needs from us is education

superpower'. But just as importantly, education is the soil in which relationships flourish. Friendships are forged which later underpin trade, cultural ties and diplomacy. Of course, over recent years the question of immigration and free movement has been fraught in British politics. But we need to move beyond the narratives that close our eyes to shared interests. We need to unleash the full potential of the British Higher Education system for international students. We need to see instead the power of knowledge, trade, investment and diplomacy, and remove international students from the net migration statistics where they have never really belonged.

As one of our largest exports, the UK has a massive opportunity to provide the educational opportunities and experiences that the world demands from us, driving both domestic economic growth and contributing towards the UK's post-Brexit aim of becoming a leading knowledge economy.

Further ambition must be injected into our approach to international education. We need a new vision. The world's big battle today is for talent. Our universities need to draw the best talent from all over the world if they are to maintain their global preeminence. In labs and lecture theatres, in research groups and through the starting of innovative companies, our young people will together build a better future.

And we must surely move beyond one-way discussions of student mobility. Transnational education, particularly with India now relaxing its norms and encouraging international collaborations, are rightly the key area of focus for the education sector. Strategic alliances between Indian and British counterparts will create a new frontier in international education. UK Universities should work with state governments in India to identify areas of strategic priority.

When the world is faced with complex problems, India and the UK can and



extraordinary achievements of young Indians who have studied in the UK and made significant contributions to their field and society are humbling in their importance and diversity.

Working on the Honours has been an unforgettable experience for the NISAU UK team. We have always known that the work of Indian graduates of British universities was extraordinary, but I don't think even we realised just how profoundly world-changing it is. The process of selection has also been a labour of love and passion by our NISAU volunteers – my heroes, to whom I am so very grateful for making this idea into reality. This reality would also not be possible without the support of the British Council, our principal partners who have generously supported us from day one.

Our selected Achievers have been through a rigorous competitive process, judged by a panel of eminent jury members who have painstakingly reviewed so many applications. We are grateful also to all of our sponsors and partners, including the UK Government Department for International Trade and the UK Higher Education sector, whose generosity and participation has enabled us to shine a light on the 'Living Bridge' *between our two nations*. Onwards and upwards.

Love,

Sanam Arora

Sanam

Sanam Arora is the founder and chairperson of the National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU). She is also the chief architect of the Achievers Honours and a consistent voice championing for international students in the UK. Professionally, she is a senior strategist to the Investment Management industry, providing transformation advice to global asset & wealth management houses. For her work towards the welfare of young Indians abroad and promoting the India-UK educational relationship, Sanam has won numerous awards, including most recently the prestigious PIEoneer award for Outstanding Contribution to the Industry and the Honorary Studentship of the London School of Economics SU.

should respond. The AstraZeneca-Serum Institute partnership that enabled the Oxford vaccine to save millions was spearheaded by Adar Poonawalla, a former Indian student in the UK – one of our Outstanding Achievers today - working with the Regius Professor of Medicine Sir John Bell, himself a former international student. Such outstanding impact can be seen in every field, and the

Our achievers don't only succeed for themselves, they make a difference in society

EDITOR'S NOTE

Breathing life into numbers

118,000 Indians were granted a Student Visa in 2021- 2022

India is now No. 1, displacing China

The UK targets 600,000 international students by 2030

Reached 605,130 in 2020-21, a decade early

International students worth £28.8 billion to the UK economy

Just 10 Indian students generate £1 million of net economic impact



International education is almost ALWAYS discussed in numbers: positive for champions of international education, negative for those advocating tighter restrictions on immigration. Yet, life-changing policy decisions are taken just based on inanimate statistics.

This NISAU-led special magazine, *Living Bridge*, and the *Achievers Honours* is a deliberate attempt to move away from the cold hard numerical to dig deeper into the stories of the many nameless and faceless individuals that make up these statistics. We lift the veil and introduce you to the heart and mind of international education.

By celebrating these Achievers during India@75, we want to show how the troubled colonial relationship has now evolved into a partnership of equals strengthened by the scores of students that have made that long journey across the ocean in the past 75 years and have connected the two countries with an unbreakable bond of friendship. By bringing you the stories of grit and determination of these inspiring Achievers, we want to shatter the stereotypes and breathe life into the statistics as we showcase the individuals whose achievements and contributions to society form the pillars of this Living Bridge of friendship. I was in the press box at Wembley Stadium in November 2015 during the

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to London, and distinctly remember how the packed stadium broke into a loud cheer when he used the phrase 'Living Bridge' to describe the Indian diaspora. Since then Living Bridge has been an inseparable part of the India-UK bilateral vocabulary. The increasing number of partnerships in research, business, economics, arts and culture expand this Living Bridge further, so eloquently explained by His Excellency Vikram Doraiswami, the High Commissioner of India in London. From the UK's foreign secretary to ministers in Education, Trade and Home, agree that India is a key ally. London is ranked the #1 city in the world for students. Not surprising, when the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has been a true supporter of international students and businesses in London accessing talent from India. Also Priti Patel, MP and the former Home Secretary, has been instrumental

in the re-introduction of a post-study work visa and is a passionate advocate of skilled Indian migrants to the UK and; Lord Jo Johnson, former universities minister makes some important suggestions to strengthen this Living Bridge.

Veteran politician Virendra Sharma MP, Lord Karan Bilimoria, crossbench peer in the House of Lords and Rajesh Agrawal, deputy mayor of London are the embodiments of this Living Bridge. They write about their journey as a young Indian, new on British shores, to now being in positions of power that help chart UK's political and economic discourse. NISAU too, itself a platform enabling this living bridge to thrive, has grown in its decade-long history to become a powerful voice that cannot be ignored, and has been instrumental in bringing the voice of many to the young community in the UK and beyond. And of course, the most important political position in the United Kingdom

By bringing you these stories of grit and determination, we want to shatter the stereotypes and breathe life into the statistics

today is held by Rishi Sunak, its first Indian origin Prime Minister, a potent symbol of this Living Bridge. Sunak once told me: 'My story was only possible because of the people who came before me and only because they broke down barriers and endured things that I didn't have to endure and paved the way for my generation.' The stories we bring you in this Living Bridge, the stories of the students, the achievers, the thinkers and the policy makers, I hope, will inspire you as they pave the way for the next generation of changemakers to achieve the 'impossible'. This is the real Living Bridge, the hundreds and thousands of individuals doing all they can to create, grow and strengthen the myriad links between India and the United Kingdom.

I invite you to be a part of this burgeoning friendship.



Ruhi Khan,
Editor

Ruhi Khan is a London-based independent journalist and an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) scholar at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is the editor of the LSE Media Blog and also manages LSE's research project – COVID-19: A Communication Crisis – Ethics, Privacy, Inequalities. Ruhi has by-lines in several media in India and the UK including Mojo Story, Dainik Bhaskar, Times News Network, NDTV, Hindustan Times, Mumbai Mirror, TOI, Mid-day, The Wire, Gulf News, The PIE News, The PIE Review and the Guardian. Ruhi was a Jefferson Fellow at the East West Center, USA, and a recipient of the Mary Morgan Hewitt Award for Women in Journalism. Her book Escaped: True Stories of Indian Fugitives in London was published by Penguin in March 2021.

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Expanding the India UK Living Bridge

India and UK are today building a new, future-oriented relationship driven by partnership in four pillars: trade and investment; strategic convergence; people to people ties; and democratic values, writes His Excellency Vikram Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, calling for the need to expand the India-UK Living Bridge

The last few decades have seen the strengths of India grow manifold; it already is the world's 5th largest economy, has the 2nd largest army, and is soon to be the most populous country. With a knowledge-based economy with plenty of skilled human capital, a dynamic private sector with a deeply-rooted democratic political system, macroeconomic stability with one of the largest markets, a well-developed financial sector with a rapidly growing service sector, and one of the world's largest fintech and startup ecosystem, India is a country with which the world is looking to build relationships.

The next ten years will see the India-UK relationship transform far more than it has in the past 75 years. India and the UK are finalising their first Free Trade Agreement, which aims to double bilateral trade by 2030. A good, balanced and mutually-beneficial trade deal has the potential of transforming trade ties exponentially. Moreover, bilateral investment flows are also robust, with most major Indian firms now household names in the UK.

Beyond the Living Bridge

The leaderships of both India and the UK have spoken repeatedly of the Living Bridge that is the Indian diaspora in the UK, the most successful immigrant community here. We already are leveraging the capabilities of this outstanding community, and will continue to do so. But how can we expand this Living Bridge into an expressway? We will have to identify and develop many more opportunities. These include:

Indian students: Approximately 120,000 Indian students were granted



HE Vikram Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India to the UK, with Sujit Ghosh, deputy High Commissioner, paying homage to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, an alumnus of LSE, at the Honorable Society of Gray's Inn, London. Gray's Inn has a dedicated Ambedkar Room in honour of the icon who was admitted here in 1916 and called to the Bar in 1922

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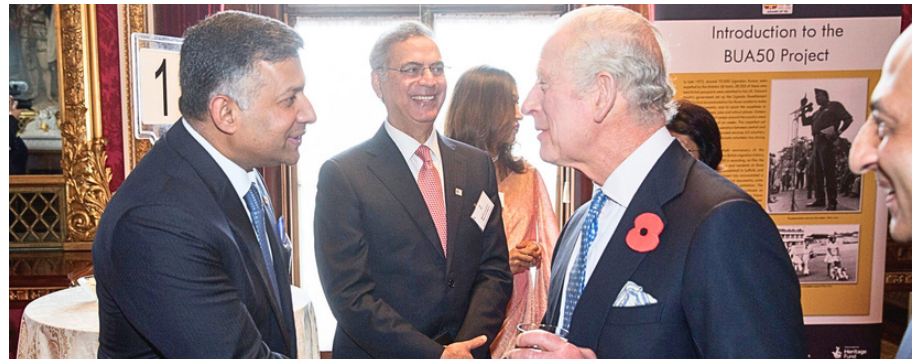
visas this year to study in the UK. This is a fourfold increase as compared to the previous year. Indian students can learn skills and gain qualifications in the UK and then return to India to pursue entrepreneurship. They can work in or create jobs in the UK too; a recent Grant Thornton report encapsulated the abilities of Indians to create flourishing businesses in the UK. Our recently finalised Young Professionals Scheme has the potential to take this partnership forward through two-way flows of young professionals, seeking to leverage opportunities in both countries.

Research and innovation: The Oxford-AstraZeneca-Serum Institute vaccine project was a sterling example of Indo-UK cooperation in research and innovation.

World class research and scientific talent exists in both countries, and is ready to be channelised into world-class products for the global market, for which the vast and diverse Indian market offers one of the most comprehensive opportunities for new technologies and goods. Areas of promise include pharmaceuticals, FinTech solutions, defence products and chemicals.

Green Economy, Finance: The UK has many innovations in the Greentech space, and is, like India, a member of the International Solar Alliance.

Innovating, developing and deploying environmentally-friendly solutions at scale will enable India and the UK to create benefits for the global effort to deal with climate change - one of the defining challenges of our times. Here, The City of London can play a specific role in leveraging its global strength as a major hub for Green Finance, and supporting new India-UK green partnerships. Perhaps we can go further and create triangular partnerships that bring in Indian capital as well, leveraging the strengths



HE Vikram Doraiswami met King Charles III at an event hosted at Buckingham Palace to mark 50 years of the arrival of British Asians from Uganda

of Mumbai and GIFT City, along with The City. Finally, as India seeks to leverage digital capacities to bring tens of millions of Indians not only out of poverty but into the 21st century and to harness their energies, the UK can partner Indian talent in taking such solutions out of the local context and into the global development discourse. In this manner, India and UK can work together, *saath-saath*, to fulfil the vision outlined by the Prime Ministers of India and the UK in Roadmap 2030, for a new and exciting India-UK partnership.

H.E. Vikram Kumar Doraiswami joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1992 and was posted to the High Commission of India in Hong Kong and then in the Embassy of India in Beijing. He has also served as India's Consul General in Johannesburg, South Africa, and Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea. He was the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh before taking office in London. Prior to joining the Indian government he worked as a journalist and has a Master's degree in history from University of Delhi.

Young Professionals Scheme: A milestone moment for migration

On January 9, His Excellency Vikram Doraiswami and Mr Matthew Rycroft, the Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, UK signed and exchanged letters confirming the completion of their respective internal procedures for the implementation of the Young Professionals Scheme, an important part of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Migration and Mobility Partnership between the Indian and British Governments that was signed in May 2021. Under the scheme, young professionals (graduates) who are between the age 18-30, will be able to gain exposure to work life in another culture, with the option of taking employment as an incidental part of their stay for a maximum duration of two years. 3000 young professionals from each country are expected to benefit under the Scheme annually.





(From left) Scott Nelson of ETS, Virendra Sharma MP, Sanam Arora, Lord Karan Bilimoria, and Lord Jo Johnson at the House of Lords.

India UK Achievers Honours launches in British Parliament

Indian students contribute significantly to the UK, argue British parliamentarians and education sector experts during the London launch of Achievers Honours

“The UK’s higher education system has a proud reputation and is one of our most valuable exports. Our International Education Strategy commits to sustainably growing education exports to £35 billion by 2030, with India as one of the five priority markets,” said Minister for Exports Marcus Fysh during the launch of ‘Achievers Honours’ programme. To mark 75 years of India’s independence, United Kingdom will honour 75 young students and alumni, and some outstanding achievers for excellence in education, professional achievement and making immense contribution to society. On 12 October, at an exclusive event in the Palace of Westminster in London, attended

by British parliamentarians, vice-chancellors of leading universities, and many other important stakeholders in the UK India education corridor, the nominations process for India-UK’s 75 Achievers was declared open. The project was initiated by the National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU UK) in partnership with the British Council in India, aligned to their year-long cultural programme ‘India/ UK Together Season of Culture’. The UK government’s Department of International Trade is also one of the partners. The launch of this event is “a strong reminder of the long history of international exchange between our two countries, building bridges

with the power of education and creating the next generation of high achieving individuals,” added Fysh. This also comes at a momentous time for UK-India relations as the countries negotiate a Free Trade Agreement, which is expected to bolster opportunities for Indian students to study in the UK and boost collaboration in fields such as pharmaceuticals and life sciences apart from pioneering innovative commercial ventures in fields such as emerging tech, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. The launch of the Achievers Honours was hosted by Lord Karan Bilimoria, Co-Chair International Students All-Party Parliamentary Group and President of the

Right

Vignesh Karthik of NISAU, Lord Jo Johnson and Ovesa Iqbal of the Indian High Commission in London

Below

Tim Longden of City, University of London with ETS's Sandy Bhangal and Scott Nelson



the UK Council of International Student Affairs and Virendra Sharma, Member of Parliament from Ealing- Southall and Chair of the Indo-British All-Party Parliamentary Group.

“The bridges that are built are absolutely phenomenal. My 86 year old mother in India to this day keeps in touch with her Birmingham university friends who have been her best friends for life,” says Bilimoria. “The Indian Institutes of Technology are now opening abroad and there is a very good chance that we will have an IIT campus within Birmingham University. Can you imagine the research and exchange of students?”

Sharma finds that the ties between India and UK have strengthened over time and the Indian students and the diaspora in the UK form a “living bridge” between the two countries.

“This century belongs to India. Everyone accepts it, economically and politically,” says Sharma who has been a steady champion for Indian students in the UK. “Young students are the future leaders of the world, and they are the visionaries who will strengthen the ties between India and the UK.”

Already, there is significant momentum in the educational partnership between India and the UK, with nearly 120,000 Indian students being granted visas to study in the UK and with the recent agreement between the two nations to recognise each other’s qualifications.

“We take for granted the huge benefits international students bring to us. They

bring in not just economic and social benefits but international students form friendships that we hope go on to form ties of trade, commerce and diplomacy,” said Lord Jo Johnson, who has earlier served as a Universities Minister and is the brother of the former Prime Minister Boris Johnson. It was under Boris Johnson’s premiership that UK introduced the Graduate Route that grants international students permission to stay in the UK for at least 2 years after successfully completing a course in the UK.

“Today Indian students and alumni include medics and scientists, engineers and lawyers. As the second largest national group amongst U.K. international students they help contribute almost £30 billion to the UK economy each year. In this 75th anniversary year of Indian independence and the 10th anniversary of the NISAU, our aim is to

celebrate the achievements of Indian students and alumni and support the living bridge between India and the UK,” says Sanam Arora, Chairperson and Founder, NISAU, UK.

“International education is fundamental to the ties that bind UK and India together, to the interest we share in common and work alongside each other to pursue bigger global objectives,” says Vivienne Stern, CEO, Universities UK and also a member of the eminent jury of the Achievers Honours. “The individuals we choose will help us to illustrate to the people why international education is precious and matters and why we should fight to preserve it. I hope we will be able to use the brilliant stories that this initiative produces to help us illustrate the case using individual human beings and the contributions they make,” she added.



Vivienne Stern , CEO, Universities UK, Virendra Sharma, MP, and Sanam Arora

MEET THE JURY



Vivienne Stern MBE
Chief Executive, Universities UK

Vivienne Stern is the Chief Executive of Universities UK. Her primary focus is on influencing policy, political engagement, relationships with members and organisational leadership. Vivienne's background is in higher education policy and politics. After a degree in English Literature, she spent a year in Italy followed by two working in Parliament. She held several policy roles in Universities UK before becoming Head of Political Affairs in 2011. She became Director of Universities UK International in 2014.



Sankalp Chaturvedi
Director, Gandhi Centre for Inclusive Innovation, Imperial College London

Sankalp Chaturvedi is a Professor (Organisational Behavior & Leadership) at the Imperial College Business School and the Associate Dean of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and leading the Gandhi Centre for Inclusive Innovation within the School. He holds a Ph.D. from the NUS Business School, National University of Singapore, and has a Masters in Human Resource Development and Management from IIT, Kharagpur (India), and a Bachelors in Engineering from RAU, Udaipur (India).



Sonu Nigam
Singer, Padma Shri

Sonu Nigam is a singer, music director and actor. He is one of the most popular and successful playback singers across Indian cinema Hindi and Kannada cinema. He has been honoured by the Government of India with Padma Shri, the country's fourth-highest civilian honour for his contribution in the field of arts. He was ranked the Number 1 artist on the US Billboard Uncharted charts twice in September and October 2013. Nigam has launched his own music label named 'I Believe Music' in July 2020.



Kamini Gupta PhD
Lecturer, King's College London

Kamini Gupta holds a PhD from London Business School. Her research explores how organizations simultaneously pursue multiple and conflicting goals, focusing on the intersection of business and society. She is the winner of several prestigious grants, including the ESRC-UKRI-ICSSR grant on strengthening UK-India trade as part of which she is studying social network inequalities among trade relationships. She also co-hosts the India Series with NISAU, inviting policymakers, entrepreneurs and influential thinkers on topics of urgent relevance to India.



Shahid Jameel
Research Fellow, Green Templeton College, University of Oxford

Shahid Jameel is a Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and the Principal Investigator for the project on Public Health, Science and Technology in Muslim societies. He is known for his research on hepatitis E and HIV. He has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Wellcome Trust DBT India Alliance, Director of the Trivedi School of Biosciences at Ashoka University, and head of Virology at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). He has edited three books, authored multiple journal articles and served on a number of editorial and advisory boards.



Paul Inman
Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), University of Reading

Paul Inman leads on global engagement and international student recruitment at University of Reading and a member of its Executive Board. He previously worked at Oxford Brookes University, as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment. He was the leading architect behind Oxford Brookes Global, which introduced a strategically integrated approach towards international student recruitment, global partnership and transnational education. He was a founding director and chair of the governing board of University Technical College Swindon.

Dr S. Y. Quraishi
Former Chief Election
Commissioner of India

Dr. S.Y. Quraishi was the 17th Chief Election Commissioner of India and authored the book 'An



Undocumented Wonder - the making of the Great Indian Election'. He was the founder and first director of Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development at Sriperumbudur (TN). He led 'Universities Talk AIDS' (UTA) in over 10,000 colleges and 300 Universities in India and was featured in The Indian Express list of 100 Most Powerful Indians (2011, 2012) and India Today's Power List (2012).

Anne Marie Graham
Chief Executive, UKCISA

Anne Marie Graham joined the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) in 2019 from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, where she was Director of Chevening, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's flagship global scholarship scheme. Prior to that, Anne Marie has led on a range of educational programmes and projects promoting international mobility and intercultural exchange. She spent several years in the language services industry managing high profile accounts with multinational engineering and pharmaceutical companies.



Mukulika Banerjee
Associate Professor, London School
of Economics & Political Science

Mukulika Banerjee is Associate Professor in Social Anthropology at LSE and was the inaugural Director of the LSE South Asia Centre. She studied in Delhi and Oxford universities and taught at Oxford and UCL before joining LSE. Her publications include Why India Votes?, The Pathan Unarmed and The Sari and, as editor, Muslim Portraits. Her recent book, Cultivating Democracy: Politics and Citizenship in Agrarian India, is based on 15 years of research in rural India.



Ruth Arnold
International Education Consultant

Ruth Arnold is a consultant for charity and higher education institutions like Imperial College, Royal College of Arts, Nuffield Foundation, UKCISA and Study Group Global. She is an advisor to the UK Dyspraxia Foundation and was previously director of public affairs for the University of Sheffield. She co-founded and developed the award-winning WeAreInternational campaign and is a recipient of multiple prestigious awards and honours, including Outstanding Contribution to the Industry at the PIE awards 2020.

Ritika Paruck
Director Education, British Council
India

Ritika Paruck was a CSIR research fellow at the Bose Institute Kolkata, followed by teaching biology to secondary school students. She introduced Vidya Devi Jindal School to international exchanges, facilitated the school's membership to Round Square and as the International Coordinator successfully led the school's first bid for the International School Award and Global School Partnership grant. She joined the British Council in 2005 and is currently Director Education responsible for the strategic direction of British Council's Education work in India.



Rachel Dwyer
Professor Emerita of Indian Cultures
and Cinema, SOAS

Rachel Dwyer was formerly Professor of Indian Cultures and Cinema at SOAS, University of London. Her main research interest is in Hindi cinema including film magazines and popular fiction; consumerism and the new middle classes and the middlebrow; love and eroticism; visual culture; religion; emotions; Gandhi and the biopic; stars; Hinglish and language in cinema. She has published ten books and has recently completed 'Bollywood's India: Indian cinema as a guide to modern India for Reaktion Books, London and Hachette, India.



Sanam Arora
Chairperson and founder, NISAU UK

Sanam Arora is founder and chairperson of the National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU). Professionally, she is a senior strategist to the Investment Management industry, providing transformation advice to global asset & wealth management houses. For her work towards the welfare of young Indians abroad; and her championing of the India-UK educational relationship, Sanam has won numerous awards, including most recently the prestigious PIEoneer award for Outstanding Contribution to the Industry and the Honorary Studentship of the LSESU.



Celebrating UK's strong human connect with India

Vivienne Stern MBE, Chief Executive of Universities UK (UUK) that represents over 140 universities, writes on the jury's challenge to find the top 75 Indian achievers from an extensive pool of students whose experience in the UK education system was transformative and their contributions to society immense

The UK is exceptionally fortunate to host a significant number of bright, talented and highly motivated Indian students every year. These students contribute to the life of the UK's universities in many ways. Recently, I attended a public lecture at a prestigious central London institution. The audience comprised students and academics from all over the world, alongside UK based policy makers and politicians. The discussion, after the lecture, brought to life the way in which students who come to our universities with their own life experiences and deep understanding of other systems than our own can help us see problems in a new light, or offer comparisons which enliven discussion of any policy topic.

We're lucky to be a place where many Indian students want to develop their academic careers. But in turn, our universities provide a fantastic springboard for many Indian graduates who go on to develop significant careers.

The India UK Achievers Honours casts a spotlight on some of these brilliant individuals, and shows what talent, combined with opportunity, can produce. The individuals selected by the judging panel, of which I was a member, have each gone from studying at British universities to contribute significantly in business, public service, philanthropy and charitable work, as well as in politics.

I found it very difficult to single out just a few individuals from within an excellent pool of candidates. The life paths taken varied considerably and it was hard to make comparisons between achievements in very different fields. One of the ways that the judging panel tried to make these distinctions was by evaluating the extent to which their education in the



Vivienne Stern

UK had contributed to the path taken. In many cases it was clear that the UK experience was transformative – opening young minds to new possibilities, encouraging the development of personal commitments and values. Many of the candidates talked about the way in which UK universities celebrate and support diversity – diversity of thought as well as of individual characteristics. There were many applicants who talked about how this had helped to equip them to make a positive contribution to the lives of marginalised people back in India, through professional and voluntary efforts.

A strong theme in the nominations was the evidence of people who were

deeply conscious that it was a privilege to have an opportunity to study internationally, and were determined to give back as a result. Many provided ongoing support and mentoring to the next generation of students through alumni networks.

The human relationships which form through international study, and the contribution these individuals make to better mutual understanding between the UK and India, across many professional disciplines, matter now more than ever.

It is therefore fitting that we should celebrate the UK's strong human connections with India as part of our celebrations of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

India-UK partnership, a force for global good

Alison Barrett MBE, Director, India, at the British Council writes about the opportunities and growth in education between India and the UK and welcomes the India UK Achievers Honour in the 75th year of India's independence and the India/UK Together, Season of Culture as a milestone in this partnership

Congratulations to NISAU on launching the India UK 75 Achievers Honours, an initiative that celebrates Indians and their academic achievements on the global stage. This is an exciting initiative that underlines how impactful the India-UK partnership in education is and how well Indian students have taken advantage of the opportunities afforded to them. The celebrations are well timed as the British Council celebrates India's 75th anniversary through the India/UK Together, Season of Culture – a year-long programme of cultural and educational partnerships that strengthen the living bridge between our two countries. We're proud to be celebrating what India and the UK have achieved together and look forward to the next 75 years of partnership. Science and education are at the heart of the India-UK relationship – as UK Research and Innovation states, since 2008, the UK and Indian governments and third parties have together invested over £300 million in co-funded research and innovation programmes. The India UK Roadmap 2030 signed by our two Prime Ministers puts the spotlight on education and science – further creating pathways for greater collaboration. The recently announced Graduate Route and the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications agreement, which will allow UK Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral academic degrees to be recognised in India, are significant landmarks in our relationship and will facilitate greater mobility leading to greater exchange of ideas and knowledge. These initiatives are likely to enable more and more Indians to study at world-class UK institutions offering high-quality courses and world recognised degrees. We are proud of our globally ranked



The delivery and distribution of the Covid vaccine by Indian and British researchers is a clear example of the power of research collaboration and of the brilliant, bright minds in our two countries

and renowned universities, but especially proud of the value and opportunities they bring to students. UK alumni are among the most employable graduates in the world; ninety per cent of international students progress more quickly in their careers and earn more than peers educated elsewhere. The UK is also in the top five countries for university-industry collaboration and thirty-eight per cent of Nobel laureates who studied abroad did so in the UK. In this context, Indian and British students can look forward to more and more opportunities for collaboration and growth in the near future. Our mutual cooperation in science and research makes India-UK a force for global good. Our academics, researchers and students work together to tackle global challenges and find global solutions. The delivery and distribution of the Covid vaccine by Indian and British researchers is a clear example of the power of research collaboration and of the brilliant,

bright minds in our two countries. There are numerous examples of this facilitated by world class partnership programmes such as the Newton Fund, International Science Partnerships Fund and the UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). The diversity of the UK's education system helps make it one of the best education systems in the world. This diversity also allows for deep engagement and knowledge exchange between national and international students and faculty and for relationships to be built for a lifetime. To facilitate this lifetime of engagement and to create further opportunities for students to collaborate globally, we have recently launched Alumni UK, our new global network for anyone who has studied in the UK as an overseas student. We hope that UK-based student networks such as NISAU will collaborate with the Alumni network to complement our efforts to make UK education more accessible for all Indian students. Anyone planning to

study further in the UK can find information about financial support options on the Study UK platform such as scholarships, grants, bursaries, fellowships, and financial awards. 24 GREAT scholarships and over 20 Women in STEM scholarships, as well as Commonwealth, Charles Wallace India Trust, Chevening, Hornby and many more scholarships are available this year.

These are also exciting times for Indian students, faculty and researchers at home. As the post-covid world allows for faster implementation of the India-UK

Roadmap 2030 and India's visionary National Education Policy, the UK is partnering with the Indian Education sector to create even more opportunities through Transnational Education (TNE), TVET and dual or joint degree partnerships.

We congratulate NISAU for the work they have been doing to support the Indian student community in the UK and we look forward to our continued collaboration.

Alison Barrett MBE is the British Council's Director in India.

She was previously the Regional Director Education & Society in East Asia. Alison has held several senior management positions in the British Council leading large-scale English language teacher education programmes and partnerships designed to improve the quality of English language policy and practice. Alison previously spent over two decades working as an English teacher, teacher educator, academic manager and programme manager in London, Japan, South Korea, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Universities Celebrate Indian Achievers

Institutions across the length and breadth of UK have come together to show support to the Achievers Honours, recognising the contribution Indian students make to international education and the country

The India-UK Achievers Honours is a fantastic recognition of our students from India who have excelled in their chosen career. It celebrates the relationship between the two countries and it is an excellent opportunity to recognise their achievements.

Brunel University London

Timely and outstanding initiative of NISAU to reconnect, recognise and reward our Indian alumni community.

University of Southampton

It's a fantastic opportunity to mark the 75th anniversary of Indian independence and to highlight the enduring relationship between India and the UK through celebrating the achievements of Indian students and alumni. We'd like to thank the National Indian Students and Alumni Union for giving us the opportunity to promote the scheme amongst our students and alumni.

University of York

The India UK Achievers Honours will celebrate inspirational people across various fields for their impact on society and their profession.

City, University of London

The India-UK Achievers Honours is a fantastic recognition of our students from India who have excelled in their chosen career. It celebrates the relationship between UK -India and it

is an excellent opportunity to recognise their achievements and talent.

Royal Holloway, University of London

This is a great opportunity to recognise the outstanding success and contribution of Indian students to both the education sector as well as the UK.

University of Portsmouth

We are delighted to be working with NISAU to support the India-UK Achievers Honours programme. This exciting new initiative offers a unique opportunity to showcase the incredible contributions that our Indian students and alumni have made to their communities, to our universities and to both the UK and India. We hope their stories will inspire future generations of students from both countries for years to come.

University of Glasgow

PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

University of Oxford
University of Cambridge
University of Bath
University of Edinburgh
King's College London
University College London
Imperial College London
University of St Andrews
University of Warwick

University of Manchester
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
Oxford International Education Group
University of Reading
University of Leeds
Kingston University
University for the Creative Arts
Aston University
University of Stirling
University of Essex
University of Exeter
Cranfield University
Keele University
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London Metropolitan University
University of Huddersfield
University of Falmouth
Nottingham Trent University
University of Westminster
Coventry University
Bournemouth University
Anglia Ruskin University
Sheffield University
Birmingham City University
Newcastle University
Cardiff University
Queen Mary, University of London
Brunel University London Pathway College
University of Southampton
University of Portsmouth
City University
University of York
Loughborough University
Swansea University
University of Glasgow



A reciprocal partnership

“I am very proud of the first ever UK-India Migration and Mobility Partnership, which I negotiated and signed with the Government of India in 2021. Now the UK has left the EU and taken back control of our immigration policy, through the establishment of new legal routes to come to the UK, we are able to support new opportunities with our friends and partners from across the world. India is a friend and partner and during my time in Government I was committed to strengthening our special bilateral relationship. The partnership between India and the UK is reciprocal meaning that there are new opportunities for thousands of people to live, work and experience the culture in our two countries and this will benefit us all. I congratulate the 75 Achievers on receiving their awards and know that they will serve as an inspiration to others.”

*Rt. Hon. Priti Patel
Member of Parliament for
Witham*

Partnership of equals

Virendra Sharma, the longest serving Indian-origin parliamentarian in the UK, writes on how the relationship between India and the UK has developed over time and how international students serve as the living bridge between the two

India and the UK are natural collaborators, allies, and friends. Where once was a relationship based on exploitation, now rests a partnership of equals, representing democracy, industry and technology. I am delighted that 75 years on, we are able to celebrate the best of that relationship. As India's economy grows further, India has now overtaken the UK to represent the world's fifth largest economy, living standards, manufacturing and the services sector continue to expand at pace. India continues to step further into the limelight, as a global power, with aspirations and responsibilities to match. The time is ripe for India to also take up a position on the UN's Security Council. It is wrong that India continues to be excluded from this body. The coming security challenges of the 21st Century are best countered and confronted with diverse allies around the globe. Climate change, the rise of populism and technological risks as yet unimagined cannot be prevented alone, or in regional blocks, but will require a truly global response from the best and brightest, those of strongest resolve and committed to principles of freedom and democracy.

In 75 years, India has met challenges and opportunity head on, combatted famine and poverty and defeated them. Collaborations between the two countries will only make us feel pride in both as it would take the best of both. As a British Indian, someone born in India, raised there, and educated there, I chose to make my life and raise my own family here in the UK. I have been a Member of Parliament since 2007, and was a councillor for many years before that.

I have been proud to work with many amazing organisations in the UK, in India, and around the world. Both the British Council and NISAU are two of the best I have known. This project, India UK Achievers Honours



A champion for Indian students: Virendra Sharma MP hosted a celebratory lunch for the launch of the Achievers Honours at the UK Parliament

is a fantastic initiative recognising the interdependence and connectivity of the higher education sector in both countries. I was always deeply uncomfortable with the rhetoric the British Government has sometimes deployed towards international students. I am relieved that era seems to be over.

International studies make us better versions of who we are. My own studies in India and in the UK have made me the man I am today - an MP, a husband, a parent and a grandfather - unafraid of a dual identity and a proud British Indian. We look here to celebrate those who have made that brave journey from their country of birth, a place of safety, to

study and work, and to open up to another culture. They are the living bridge that connect the two countries and are instrumental in fostering a brighter and more productive future between India and the UK. Good luck to each of them.

Virendra Sharma is a Member of Parliament from the Ealing Southall since 2007. Sharma is the first patron of NISAU and currently chairs the Indo-British All Party Parliamentary Group. He also served as a councillor in Ealing for 25 years including a term as Mayor. He has featured in the top ten list of best MPs in the UK, ranked 8th out of 650 for his openness and responsiveness to constituents.

Indians will soon top list of international students in the world

The more Indian students in the United Kingdom, the more it helps build strong links between our two countries, writes Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea

As a proud Patron of NISAU I applaud the wonderful work that Sanam Arora and her team carry out non-stop for Indian students studying in the UK. As the Co-Chairman of the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) for International Students and the President for UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA), which looks after the interests of all international students in all the universities throughout the UK, I can proudly say that the UK has the finest universities in the world alongside the USA. In the latest QS World University Rankings, 4 out of the top 10 universities are UK universities as well as 17 out of the top 100, including the University of Birmingham of which I am Chancellor. London has recently been ranked as the number one city in the world for students. The UK offers, without doubt, one of the best student experiences in the world and has always been a very popular choice for Indian students historically. Both my grandfathers, my mother and my uncle came to study in the UK from India, as did I – 3 generations!

These generation-long links built between the UK and India are extremely powerful, in fact there are more world leaders who have been educated from British Universities along with America than any other countries by far. I fought very hard to introduce the two year post graduate work visa for international students in 2007 soon after I joined the House of Lords as an Independent Crossbench Peer. Disappointingly it was removed in 2012 and since then, I, along with the APPG, UKCISA and NISAU all worked very hard for it to be reintroduced. It has now been



A pillar of support: Lord Karan Bilimoria hosted the launch of Achievers Honours at the House of Lords in the British Parliament

reintroduced and as a result the number of Indian students coming to the UK has grown in leaps and bounds. In fact Indian students are now going to be overtaking the Chinese as the largest number of students from around the world. At the suggestion of the APPG in 2018, the UK government listened and set a target for 600,000 international students, this has now been achieved and I have now set a target of 1 million by 2030, with the Indians being the highest number. The more Indian students in the UK,

the more it helps build the extremely strong links between our two countries which have a genuine special relationship. And with the Free Trade Agreement being negotiated between the UK and India to help turbocharge trade, business, and investment between our two countries, the role of Indian students will continue to be vital going forward. I will do everything I can to help NISAU help Indian students in every way possible.

Lord Karan Bilimoria is the founding chairman of the UK India Business Council and a founding member of the Prime Minister of India's Global Advisory Council. In 2008 he was awarded the Pravasi Bharti Samman by the President of India. He has been a patron of NISAU since 2017 and is an honorary fellow of Sidney Sussex College Cambridge and chairman of the Advisory Board of the Judge Business School, Cambridge University. He is also a Bynum Tudor Fellow at Kellogg College, University of Oxford. Lord Bilimoria is Chancellor of the University of Birmingham and is the President of the UK Council for International Students Affairs (UKCISA). In June 2020, he was appointed President of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

The role of Indian students will continue to be vital

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Natural partners: UK and India need robust ‘comprehensive knowledge partnership’

The Right Hon. the Lord Johnson of Marylebone argues that the UK needs to deploy its knowledge assets – notably its universities and research base – in a more strategic way with India. With his extensive experience and insights as a Minister of State, attending Cabinet, for Universities, Science & Innovation, and the lead of a new study for Harvard Kennedy School and the Policy Institute at King’s College London, Lord Jo Johnson proposes five building blocks to the “comprehensive knowledge partnership” as an important part of post-Brexit UK-India free trade accord

India is the one country whose demographics and economic potential could enable it to become a knowledge partner for the UK of equivalent importance to China. That may seem today far-fetched. True, India’s contribution to numerous fields of knowledge, from astronomy to mathematics, is undoubted. Its role, more recently, in software development and, through its diaspora, in the growth of tech hubs such as Silicon Valley, is legendary. But, the country remains far from fulfilling its potential in international education and the modern global research endeavour. While China is positioning itself to challenge the US for supremacy at the top of the science and innovation pyramid, and is actively engaged in international collaboration as part of that strategic move to achieve technological dominance, India is far behind in the rankings of global knowledge economy powerhouses. From a UK standpoint, China is today a far more significant collaborative partner in education and research. It has for a number of years sent the most students to the UK of any country in the world and is poised to overtake the US as the UK’s most important research partner, having surged from ninth to second place in the space of a decade. While Indian student numbers in the UK are today rising again, after years of decline, they have, until a surge in the last couple of years mostly to non-Russell Group universities, still represented less than half of those from



Right Hon. the Lord Johnson of Marylebone

China. Indian students remain massively outnumbered by Chinese students in the Russell Group, where more than half of all non-EU students are from China. India is also progressing more slowly up the rankings of the UK’s science partners, moving from 22nd to 16th place over the same period. The UK needs to deploy its knowledge assets – notably its universities and its research base – in a more strategic way

with India and should propose the formation of a “comprehensive knowledge partnership” as an important part of the post-Brexit UK-India free trade agreement.

The proposed comprehensive knowledge partnership should have five building blocks:

1. Signature of a UK-India mutual recognition of credits and

Lord Jo Johnson at a Cabinet meeting in 10 Downing Street with the then Prime Minister David Cameron



qualifications treaty that enables students to move credits seamlessly between institutions in the two countries.

2. An ambitious goal for the doubling of student numbers from India over the life of this parliament, supported by moving India to the low-risk country list, monitoring of the need for further liberalisation of the post-study work visa and measures to protect the integrity of the visa system.

3. Launch of an authorised and sector-backed loan funding programme for Indian students that both widens access to UK higher education and reduces risk of fraud and predatory lending.

4. Steps to ensure the UK's Turing Scheme supports a more balanced partnership in international education

with India, with more UK students studying at Indian institutions.

5. Provision of significantly increased funding and support for collaborative R&D that promotes frontier science.

This comprehensive knowledge partnership should be at the heart of the 21st century relationship between India and the UK – countries that are in many ways natural partners and ones whose economic ties seem at lower risk of geopolitical disruption than the UK's ties with China.

With India overshadowed by China as a force in the global knowledge economy and looking to develop its capabilities at pace, and with concern mounting in the UK at growing dependencies on China within the higher education and research system, this initiative would meet clear needs in both countries.

Lord Jo Johnson is a specialist in education and technology policy with roles at a number of global universities. He is President's Professorial Fellow at King's College London and a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, as well as a Fellow of Birkbeck College, University of London and a Member of the Council of the Dyson Institute for Engineering and Technology. He is a Member of the House of Lords, a Member of the Privy Council, a Governor of the Ditchley Foundation and a Member of the European Council on Foreign Relations. A member of Parliament between 2010-2019, He held prominent positions in Government under three Prime Ministers, including Head of the No10 Downing Street Policy Unit and Minister of State for Universities and Science from May 2015, then Minister of State for Universities, Research and Innovation from July 2016 to January 2018.



Lord Jo Johnson with Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, at the 5th Indo-UK Science and Innovation Council Meeting (SIC) held in London on 15th June 2016

With open arms, London welcomes students

Rajesh Agrawal, Deputy Mayor of London for Business, writes on how the city welcomed him as a young Indian and gave him opportunities to grow and shape its future

I moved to London from India at the age of 24 with £200 in my back pocket and a drive to succeed. Born and raised in a working-class family, I was determined to do things differently. My entrepreneurial journey started with a company that offered a simple solution of reducing the cost of international money transfer. Today, that same company has become one of the leading international payments and FX platforms in Europe. In 2014, I founded another successful company which helps migrant workers and expats send money back home.

I have always been a strong supporter of entrepreneurship and in 2016 I was honoured to have been appointed London's Deputy Mayor for Business. Since then, London has faced huge challenges – from Brexit to Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis. At City Hall we are working tirelessly to narrow the economic and social inequalities in our society by supporting young people, women and people from ethnic minorities, protecting jobs and ensuring that the capital remains the most open and attractive place to do business in the world.

As Chairman of London & Partners, London's official investment and tourism promotion agency, my role is to identify strategic actions to support and lead economic growth and job creation in the capital. I have always put community work and public service at the heart of what I do. I know first-hand the challenges businesses face, which is why I always strive to create opportunities and support new businesses by encouraging youth entrepreneurship. London is a leading global city and one of the best for all students to study, live and work. Our universities are world renowned, and we welcome Indian and all international students with open arms – with many academic settings also offering scholarships to



London is a leading global city and one of the best for all students to study, live and work

help with the financial burden of studying abroad. There are excellent work opportunities, even before graduation, and students can work part-time for 20 hours per week. Universities also offer sandwich courses which help students get internships in world renowned companies as part of their degrees. Students can also apply for a graduate visa, which allows them to work in the UK for two years after completing their course. These graduate schemes and work opportunities help to kickstart some incredible careers.

London is a shining example of how people from different countries, cultures and backgrounds live side-by-side, work together and prosper. Our capital's culture and heritage assets are the envy of the world and here in London we don't just tolerate diversity, we celebrate it. As a Londoner of Indian heritage, I'm really proud to be a part of a team at City Hall developing strong, connected communities, and ensuring that every Londoner benefits

from the prosperity of our city as we build a better London for everyone. I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Indian achievers who have been honoured for their exceptional contributions to their fields and society.

This is a significant achievement that recognises the talent of Indian students and paves the way for stronger educational and cultural links between India and the UK. I wish them and all international students in our capital every success for the future and look forward to hearing about their careers and entrepreneurship in the years to come.

Rajesh Agrawal is the Deputy Mayor of London for Business. Born in India, Rajesh moved to London in 2001. As an entrepreneur he founded RationalFX in 2005, and Xendpay in 2014. He was appointed Chair of Oxfam's Enterprise Development Programme in 2015 and has been a Patron of the Prince's Trust for many years.


Scottish Parliament recognises NISAU's contributions

I have submitted the following motion to Parliament

Motion Number: S6M-06273

That the Parliament congratulates National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU) on celebrating its 10th anniversary; understands that NISAU is the oldest and largest pan-national association supporting Indian students and alumni in the UK; further understands that NISAU has won or been nominated for numerous awards, including the PIONEER Awards, where Chairperson Sanam Arora recently won the Outstanding Contribution to the Industry Award; believes that NISAU provided key support to Indian students during the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing food to over 60,000 people across the UK and India, and wishes NISAU all the best for the future as it continues to support and promote the valuable contributions made by Indian students to Scotland.

Pam Gosal MSP
West Scotland Region



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Pam Gosal, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Member of Scottish Parliament (MSP) for West Scotland tabled a motion in parliament in October 2022 congratulating NISAU on its 10th anniversary and acknowledging some of NISAU's services to the international student community in the UK.

A letter from London Higher



As the Chief Executive Officer of London Higher, the representative body for higher education institutions in London, I am delighted to see 25 winners coming from our wonderful universities in the capital.

I am pleased that London Higher has been able to support the India UK Achievers Honours, recognising and celebrating the work of Indian students and alumni not only in London, but across the UK. All our international students provide a rich contribution to this country and these outstanding winners are testament to the importance of keeping our doors open to them now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr Diana Beech
Chief Executive Officer
London Higher

British Parliamentarians advocate deeper Indian ties



The UK's higher education system has a proud reputation and is one of our most valuable exports. Our International Education Strategy commits to sustainably growing education exports to £35 billion by 2030, with India as one of the five priority markets.

The launch of Achievers Honours is a strong reminder of the long history of international exchange between our two countries, building bridges with the power of education and creating the next generation of high achieving individuals.

Marcus Fysh, Minister for Exports, Department of Trade, United Kingdom, October 2022

The 1931 Indian Census was the first to estimate at least 2,000 Indians studying in English and Scottish universities. Today, that number now stands at just over 118,000 students - who knows what the next generation of UK-India Achievers will bring?

In the 75 years since India's Independence, Indian students of Science, Medicine, Economics, Law, Business and Policy have continued to call our educational institutions home - making an impact in towns and cities across this great country. My own constituency of Harrow West is no different, with a large Indian population, many having studied here after seeing the likes of India-UK Achievers like Mahatma Gandhi, or Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

It's a particularly important time to be celebrating UK's Indian alumni.

We know that there are many extraordinary achievers of the past 75 years and let's ensure



we recognise them and the many more to come.

Gareth Thomas, MP- Harrow West

I congratulate NISAU on the Achievers Honours. The NISAU, under the Chairmanship of Sanam Arora, has gone from strength to strength. It is now the premier organisation representing Indian students in the UK. The Indian students are India's pride and are strengthening the living bridge between the two great countries, the oldest and the largest democracies in the world.

The UK-India relationship goes back over two centuries. We are no strangers to each other. We share similar values as both are secular and democratic countries with the rule of law at the heart of government. It is a matter of pride that the first non-white British Prime Minister of the United Kingdom also has roots in India. The British Indian students play an essential role in deepening the friendship between the two great



nations. They are known for their commitment to their studies and, as a result, develop better understanding with their peers. Now with the free trade agreement on the horizon, it will prove to be the mother of all free trade agreements between the number 5th

and 6th economies of the world. More and more Indian students can fulfil the labour shortage in the United Kingdom as they too are the product of a secular and democratic India and can integrate easily. I am optimistic that Indian students will play an increasingly positive and productive role in the UK.

Lord Rami Ranger CBE

NISAU is now the premier organisation representing Indian students in the UK



UNITED KINGDOM: CALLING INDIAN STUDENTS

Ruchi Hajela explores how British universities are reaching out to Indian students and what it is about UK higher education that attracts the best and the brightest minds from India

Every year, tens of thousands of students from India enrol in British higher education institutions with the aim to develop new skills, gain exposure and earn international recognition. Once their courses are over, many stay back to work in the country, making significant financial and cultural contributions.

According to estimates collected by the UK's Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA), India has consistently emerged second after China since 2008-2009, on the list of top Non-EU countries of origin of students. "While the numbers of student enrolments from India are not as high as from China, there has been a notable increase of 67,660 over the five-year period. Large increases were observed in 2019/20 and 2020/21," notes HESA. By paying a much higher fee than their UK and previously EU counterparts, Indian students along with other





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*University of Bath students recorded overall satisfaction of 86.31%, more than ten percentage points greater than the median score of Universities UK members (75.63%). Bath is 1st place in England for overall satisfaction in NSS 2022 when comparing institutions listed in The Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide.

**HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey data for 2019/20 showed that 92.9% of Bath's full-time UK domiciled first degree graduates working in the UK are in high skilled employment 15 months after leaving. This compares to 70.3% for similar graduates from all members of Universities UK.

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2023**

**UNIVERSITY
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Mahatma Gandhi Tree, Highfield Main Campus, University of Southampton planted by H.E. Mrs. Ruchi Ghanashyam IFS, (then) High Commissioner of India with dignitaries Lord Patel of Bradford, Cllr Sue Blatchford, Sheriff of Southampton and Professor Mark Spearing, Vice-Chancellor (interim), to coincide with the celebrations of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on the World Environment Day, 5 June 2019

non-EU students have, in fact, been cross subsidising the education of domestic students, according to a report by the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford.

“Numbers are on a huge increase from India to overseas for higher studies, especially after the doors have been opened after the pandemic. Also, the top destinations like UK, US, Australia and Canada are giving increased importance after student numbers have come down drastically from China,” says education consultant Srikar Alapati, CEO of Global Tree, an educational consultancy in India. In a post-Brexit world where the numbers of incoming EU students to the UK have continued to decline, Indian students are considered valuable by UK’s universities. The benefits of international education extend beyond the tangible and bridge the two countries not just on skills exchanges but also lasting relationships and memories.

Legacy institutions

According to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022, which measures an institution’s performance in teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook, 8 out of the world’s top 50 universities are in the UK. While there are many more American universities that top such annual league tables, British universities seem to be more popular with Indian students due to a multitude of factors such as shared alumni linkages between the two countries, one year coursework (at Masters’ level) which minimises the cost of studying and staying out of the job market and a wider recognition and appeal of British universities in the

home country. “Back in 2011 when I applied for an MBA, I was waitlisted at a leading business school in the US and selected at Said Business School at the University of Oxford, my parents and the wider family were delighted that I had been offered admission at Oxford,” said Abhinav Saxena, who completed his MBA from Said Business School in 2012.

Russell Group universities such as the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge are household names in India. Their popularity can be gauged from the fact that UK’s 24 Russell Group universities attract a disproportionate share of the UK’s newly enrolled international students. Whilst the Russell Group universities made up 9% of the UK’s higher education providers (24 out of the 273 listed by HESA) in the academic year 2020/21, they attracted 42% of new student enrolments (139,000 out of 332,000).

Location, high rankings and strong industry ties are some reasons for selection of universities by international students. “We have a prime position between the financial stronghold of the



Dr Sionade Robinson, City, University of London

City of London, the vibrant start up scene of Shoreditch and the creativity of Clerkenwell. We also have strong industry ties, a highly ranked Triple Crown accredited Business school, as well as a diverse community from a broad range of cultures and backgrounds,” says Dr Sionade Robinson, Vice President for Enterprise, Engagement and Employability at City, University of London.

Royal Holloway, University of London iconic campuses in Egham and guaranteed accommodation are some key factors for students choosing Royal Holloway as their study destination. Large number of students in India are increasingly becoming aware of the brilliant opportunities to study abroad. Consultants like AECC have “dedicated teams of richly experienced professionals to help students across the globe in choosing the best courses that are available in international universities based on a student’s interest and aptitude.

Lowering barriers

Since decades, representatives from UK’s universities have been regularly visiting India and participating in student fairs in their endeavour to reach out to prospective students. Also now most information is readily available online but universities seem to have gone a step further and have dedicated resources and personnel to address queries from Indian students with many having established their offices in India. Some even officially work alongside educational consultants to aid students through the application process.

“There are many opportunities to keep growing international recruitment



Shivani Bhalla, Brunel University



Dhriti Dharna, student

and personalised learning, are much sought after and are the equivalent to the first year of a bachelor degree at one of their partner universities.

Effective curriculum

While reasons such as high rankings, English language coursework and post study work visas might be initial reasons for Indian students considering the UK as a study destination, once they are here, other factors such as an interdisciplinary curriculum and the flexibility to select subjects of one’s choice leave a positive impact too.

“The interdisciplinary approach that is offered in the UK is very different from

through diversifying, creating courses that attract international students and maintaining the excellent placement opportunities. Developing our partnerships with universities in India could also provide more opportunities for students,” says Shivani Bhalla, Head of International Student Recruitment at Brunel University.

British universities have started accepting English language scores from reputed boards or undergraduate degrees from select Indian universities. This move further enhances the appeal of UK universities as previously the one-year Master’s courses were not well recognised in India where a postgraduate degree typically comprises two years of full time education. Last year, the UK and India also signed a landmark agreement to mutually recognise qualifications gained in India or the UK.

Dhriti Dharana, who is currently studying M.Sc in Clinical Psychology at Middlesex University sums up UK’s advantages well, “In my field, knowing the local language is the most important thing. Since I secured more than 75% in English in my class 12th exams (A level equivalent) I got exempted from giving IELTS. Plus, the amount of scholarships given in the UK country for the same kind of Masters. Cherry on the top was the two-year post study visa provision after completing graduation.”

Initiatives such as the Navitas Pathway Programme, help international students by providing support with English language, extra tuition time

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the rigid academic structure of Indian institutions of Higher education. It definitely exposes you to a large variety of people and challenges your assumed notions about everything, ranging from your subject of study to even your own lived experiences,” said Suramya Srivastava, an MA Global Media and Communications student at SOAS, London.

University of York has a long history of welcoming students from all over the world, with currently over 500 students from India. “We are clear that we want a university where everyone can thrive, not only to be technically proficient in their fields, but also to be able to apply their learning for social benefit, both in the UK but also as citizens of the world. And that matters because the education we provide is essential to address some of the major global scientific, environmental, and social challenges we all face,” says Rohit Kumar, Director - International Recruitment, Partnerships and Mobility, External Relations, University of York. “The teaching at York is absolutely incredible. During my undergraduate studies, and as a postgraduate student, I can definitely say that all departments are invested in ensuring that students have the best opportunity to learn,” said Srishti, a MSc Global Marketing student.

Fostering campus community

To keep university life engaging and relevant for their students, the Student Unions of most UK higher education institutions offer a range of interest-based clubs and activities, which go



*Chris Chang,
Portsmouth University*

beyond organising social events. Most societies are affiliated to the National Indian Students and Alumni Union, which a decade ago conceptualised and executed the unity of all such societies on one national platform. King’s College London India society, which counts as one of the largest membership societies on campus regularly organises events transcending cultural, socio-political and economic boundaries. It recently collaborated with NISAU to host former Reserve Bank Governor Dr Raghuram Rajan, in a talk that went viral in India. Across the road, the India Society at the London School of Economics and Political Science continues to be one of the leading Indian societies in the country and was in fact where the journey of NISAU started becoming one of the first two societies affiliated with NISAU.

The late Indian legend Rishi Kapoor singing “Main Shayar Toh Nahī” in the LSE’s Old Theatre as part of the LSE SU India Week remains etched into the minds of Indians across



*Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC,
Commonwealth secretary General*

London to this date. “Warwick’s India Forum is one of the most reputed forums focused on discussions related to contemporary India and counts some of India’s leading thinkers on its speaker list. From mentoring to careers, the society goes above and beyond in supporting Indian students and sets the benchmark for what a good society looks like,” says Sameer Dhore, Head of Student Societies at NISAU. Royal Holloway has 150 clubs and societies and its own Spotify and YouTube Channel, where many students post regularly and share their views. Campus life in the UK is significantly enriched by Indian societies on campus. NISAU’s UK India Youth Awards launched by the Commonwealth Secretary General Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC awarded societies doing exceptional work to recognise and encourage students’ great work in championing India in the UK and supporting each other while away from home.

Swansea University continues to expand its courses as international demand increases and “make it meaningful by including the social and inter-cultural elements, so no matter where in the world you are, you still feel a part of Swansea University”. Events honouring students and alumni are also important to acknowledge the importance and impact of international students to UK education. Chris Chang, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement and Student Life) at Portsmouth University says, “The Achievers Honours is a great opportunity to recognise the outstanding success and contribution of Indian students to both the



Late actor Rishi Kapoor at LSE

education sector as well as the UK." George Abraham, an education consultant believes that there is huge potential in India-UK relations vis-a-vis education and that "universities in the UK train students for the future and should do more to stay connected with their alumni from India".

Scholarships and visas

In 2012, the British government announced curbs on its post study work visas which allowed graduates to stay in the UK upon the completion of their degrees and search for jobs. However, this visa was reintroduced in 2019.

The closure of post study work visa in 2012 led to a decline in Indian student numbers during 2011/12 to 2018/19 but this decline has reversed since 2019 despite the global pandemic.

In the academic year 2021-2022 itself, as many as 53,015 new students from India enrolled in the UK's higher education sector, which amounts to 16% of all new enrolments and 19% of all non-EU enrolments. Moreover, dependents of students have an automatic right to work in the UK, which is a big bonus for mid-career executives with families exploring higher education. Median salaries for Indian graduates five years after graduation stood at £32,100 for the tax year 2018/2019. Many institutions and universities offer scholarships to students covering part or all of their expenses and mostly it is the students who have to research about finding the right scholarships to support them.

While University of Portsmouth's Regional Recruitment Adviser Anamika Saxena argues that there must be "more scholarships options to reward and recognise meritorious students and joint scholarship with the government body - for instance STEM scholarship for women", Professor Jane Falkingham, vice-president International and Engagement at the University of Southampton believes that "exclusive academic merit scholarships for Indian students and active engagement and collaboration with Indian alumni community and sustainable partnerships with Indian HEIs" will be the key.



Jane Falkingham,
University of Southampton

University of York's Rohit Kumar believes that the UK government could attract even more Indian students by considering an enhanced post-study work offer, a longer visa targeted to graduates who could help fulfil the specific skills needs of the economy.

Stepping into the future together

Clearly, the UK-Indian higher education partnership fulfils a mutual need and is symbolic of a living bridge transporting culture, ideas, knowledge, partnerships and friendships between the two nations.

The 2030 vision for UK India partnership will further cement the two countries as mutual partners of choice

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in the area of higher education and beyond.

Having more dedicated scholarships for Indian students and a certainty about post study work routes would help cement the UK's position as the destination of choice for students from India.

"Over the past 12 months, the UK government's approach has been in flux, with policies on international students being a major topic of discussion. To provide the best support for Indian students, we believe that governments should ensure that fair and consistent policies are in place to support, celebrate and welcome Indian students as they begin their education journey," says Lil Bremermann-Richard, Chief Executive Officer, Oxford Education International Group. "One of the major opportunities for universities is to broaden access to education through digital platforms, including blended learning and TransNational Education (TNE). Such approaches and systems bring education closer to those who want to benefit from the best learning experience. We are actively working to help our partners use technologies meaningfully, to enhance students' experience."

Universities agree that international recruitment can expand through diversifying, creating courses that attract international students and maintaining the excellent placement opportunities.

Many advocate developing partnerships with universities in India to provide more opportunities for students.

Andrew Bird, the Director of Marketing and Communication at Bournemouth University who is also with the British Universities' International Liaison Association (BUILA) believes that a growing middle class and India's growth as a global power has helped change the mindsets of students. "I have been travelling to India for 20 years but now I see students wanting to study in the UK interested in programs beyond just MBA and wanting to go back and contribute to their country."

The education relationship between India and the UK is a cornerstone of a healthy bilateral partnership. While



Andrew Bird, Bournemouth University



*Above
Lil Bremermann-
Richard, Oxford
Education
International
Group*

Indian students are increasingly attracted to the diversity of courses and opportunities of research the UK offers, UK universities too are putting in every effort to entice the bright minds from India not just as students but also as partners in international education.

Ruchi Hajela is a researcher and freelance writer based in the United Kingdom. She is an alumna of the University of Delhi and the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her heart is firmly rooted in India.

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ACHIEVERS



Outstanding Achiever

PARINEETI CHOPRA



Parineeti Chopra | Actor and Singer

Outstanding Achiever - Arts, Culture & Entertainment
University of Manchester

A National Film Award winner, Parineeti is an acclaimed artist with multiple honours and recognitions to her name. She has appeared in Forbes Celebrity 100 list since 2013.

Arts, Culture & Entertainment



Anu Menon | Director and Screenwriter
London Film School

Anu graduated in 2007 with a rare distinction. She directed the ten-part series *Four More Shots Please!* for Amazon India, which was nominated for a 2020 International Emmy Award & the biopic drama *Shakuntala Devi* available on Amazon Prime Video. Most recently, Anu directed block two of *Killing Eve* Series 4.

Anjali Menon | Director and Screenwriter
London Film School

Anjali is a Malayalam filmmaker and screenwriter and founder of Little Films. She has won international, national and state awards for her work. She is the founder of the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC), an organization that focuses on gender equality in the Malayalam film industry.



Parambrata Chatterjee | Actor and Director
University of Bristol

One of the most popular actors of Bengali cinema, Parambrata gained pan-India recognition in 2012 after featuring in the Bollywood movie *Kahaani*. He won the prestigious 'Rituparno Ghosh memorial award' for his second directorial venture in 2013.

Rakasree Basu | Film Producer
University of Glasgow

Rakasree Basu has pioneered in bringing Nordic film and television productions to India and co-produced the first Danish-Indian feature film. Her company, Frames Per Second Films, is a renowned female-led Indian production house catering to international productions.



Arts, Culture & Entertainment



Soha Ali Khan | Actor and Writer

University of Oxford and London School of Economics

Soha is an actress who has worked in Hindi, Bengali and English films. She has won various awards for her performance in the critically acclaimed movie 'Rang De Basanti'. She has authored 'The Perils of Being Moderately Famous' that won the Crossword Book Award.

Manu Pillai | Author and Historian

King's College London

Author-historian Manu Pillai has written four popular history books, most recently False Allies: India's Maharajahs in the Age of Ravi Varma. He has won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar. He is currently working towards a PhD at King's College, London.



Saima Iqbal | Historical Conservationist

Oxford Brookes University

Saima has championed several voluntary heritage-led projects in culturally rich, remote areas of India. She won a UNESCO Asia Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation. She has also won the Young Indian Leader Award for her outstanding professional work and sphere of influence in heritage.



Outstanding Achiever

ADITI CHAUHAN



75
achievers
CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

Aditi Chauhan | Goalkeeper, India

Outstanding Achiever - Sports
Loughborough University

Aditi is the Goalkeeper of the Indian National Football Team, founder of 'She Kicks Football Academy' and the 'Aditi Chauhan Foundation'. She is a football expert analyst & commentator on major sports channels in India.

Sports



Chhavi Kohli | Fencing athlete
University of Edinburgh

Chhavi is an Indian national fencing athlete and a mental health practitioner. She is a two time Commonwealth Games Medallist. She has won various medals including three international gold medals. She was the youngest fencer to participate in National Games in 2015.

Chhavi is currently studying MSc Performance Psychology at one of the best institutions in the world, University of Edinburgh.

Deepthi Bopaiah | Sports, Entrepreneur
University of Oxford

Deepthi is the CEO of GoSports Foundation- a national award-winning non-profit organisation, that aims to identify, nurture & support some of India's top talent in their Olympic and Paralympic pursuit. She was awarded the Chevening Gurukul Fellowship at University of Oxford.



Priyal Narendra Keni | International Rifle Shooter
London Business School

CA, International Rifle Shooter, Social Entrepreneur & TEDx Speaker, who represented India for 7 years & won +110 medals before pivoting into consulting. She is now pursuing a MBA in London while scaling her social venture in India & is part of the UN Women 30 for 2030 network.

Saurav Ghosal | Squash Player
University of Leeds

Saurav is an Arjuna award winner. A trailblazer, he is the first Indian squash player to break into the top 10 in the world and was also the first Indian to win the coveted British Junior Open Under-19 Squash title in 2004. He won the 2022 Commonwealth Games men's squash singles. The world #15 holds a record 13 Indian national titles, 10 Professional Squash Association tour titles, a gold in the Asian Games and a gold in the World Championships. He took silver in the Commonwealth Games mixed doubles five years ago.



Suheil Tandon | Sports, Entrepreneur
Loughborough University

Suheil is the Founder-Director of Pro Sport Development, an award-winning social enterprise utilising sport for the holistic development of young people. He believes in the power of sport in catalysing social transformation, and has conceptualised several innovative initiatives across India. Suheil has a postgraduate degree in sport management from Loughborough University, UK and an undergraduate degree in mathematics and economics from McGill University, Canada.

Outstanding Achiever

RAGHAV CHADHA



 **achievers**
RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

Raghav Chadha | Politician

*Government and Politics
London School of Economics*

Raghav is the youngest Member of Parliament in India (Rajya Sabha). He is a national executive member & national spokesperson of the Aam Aadmi Party. He is Chairman of the Advisory Panel to the Chief Minister of Punjab.

Government & Politics

Bhavya Bishnoi | Politician

University of Oxford & London School of Economics

Bhavya is currently serving as a Member of Legislative Assembly from Haryana, as the youngest legislator in the current assembly. Bhavya also runs a non-profit, 'Bhajan Global Impact Foundation (BGIF)', through which he aims to effect transformative change through policy advocacy, impact interventions, and development collaborations.



Atishi Singh | Politician

University of Oxford



Atishi is an Indian politician, educator, political activist and MLA from Delhi. She is a member of the Political Affairs Committee of Aam Aadmi Party. She served as Advisor to the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, primarily on education.

Gurjot Singh | Senior Police officer, Punjab

University of Bristol

Gurjot is an Indian police officer, writer and singer, who has authored the best selling 'New India - The Reality Reloaded' He is currently in the UK, working with the Avon and Somerset Police force in the domain of Digital policing.



Kaushal Vidyarthi | Office of the Former President of Indian National Congress

University of Oxford



Kaushal holds a DPhil in Social Policy from Oxford where he came as an Inlaks Scholar. He has worked with the UNDP & European Commission and is associated with Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojana, the poverty reduction & women empowerment initiative of Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust.

Government & Politics



Manish Chadha | Joint Secretary, Govt of India

King's College London

Manish is a Joint Secretary to Government of India, through lateral entry scheme. He leads foreign trade for select geographies & commodities, leading FTA negotiations in Industry track (IPR, GI, Innovation & MSME) and manages IT & cyber security for the Department of Commerce. He is a Chevening Gurukul Fellow.

Dr Megha Bhargava | Joint Commissioner, Indian Revenue Service

University of Cambridge

Dr. Megha Bhargava works in the IRS & holds key portfolios in domestic & international taxation, intelligence & criminal investigation of financial crimes. A qualified dental surgeon, she strives to ensure Universal Health Coverage to marginalized communities. As the Co-founder of NGO 'Samarpann', she has been helping to facilitate equitable access to Inclusive Education, Comprehensive Healthcare & Livelihood generation opportunities for rural and tribal communities across various parts of India.



A portrait of Menaka Guruswamy, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a red top. She is standing with her arms crossed, looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is dark.

Outstanding Achiever

MENAKA GURUSWAMY

75
achievers
CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

Menaka Guruswamy | Senior Advocate

Law

University of Oxford

A Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India, Menaka is known for having played a significant role in many landmark cases. In 2019 she was featured as one of the TIME 100 most influential people in the world for her work spearheading the successful, historic battle for LGBTQ rights in India. She is the first Indian and second woman to have her portrait hung at the Milner Hall in Rhodes House at the University of Oxford.

Law



Arghya Sengupta | Author and Lawyer
University of Oxford

Arghya is the Founder and Research Director at 'Vidhi'. He has served on a number of government committees including the B.N. Srikrishna-led committee of experts on a data protection framework for India. He has publications in Law Quarterly Review, Public Law, and column in The Telegraph and The Times of India. He has authored a book "Independence and Accountability of the Indian Higher Judiciary".

Chintan Chandrachud | Barrister
University of Cambridge

Dr Chintan Chandrachud is a barrister at Brick Court Chambers, London. His practice focuses on commercial & public law. He is widely published & is the author of "The Cases that India Forgot" (Juggernaut 2019) & "Balanced Constitutionalism: Courts and Legislatures in India and the United Kingdom" (OUP 2017). He was listed by Chambers & Partners as an "associate to watch", and by Legal 500 as a "key lawyer", for tax litigation.



Gunjan Singh | Attorney
SOAS, University of London

Gunjan Singh is an Indian attorney specializing in Human Rights law for over 8 years. He is a recipient of the Chevening Scholarship. He holds an LL.M in Human Rights, Conflict and Justice from SOAS, a degree in law from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India, and a Master in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India.

Krishna Omkar | Corporate Lawyer
University of Oxford

Krishna bridges the worlds of business, thought-leadership & civil society, counselling boards, C-suite executives & corporations on embedding Sustainability, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion as a business strategy to create equitable outcomes & long-term growth within the context of Stakeholder Capitalism. A corporate lawyer by background, he has quarterbacked some of the most complex & high-value M&A deals of recent years spanning 60+ jurisdictions & US\$200 billion+ in total value.

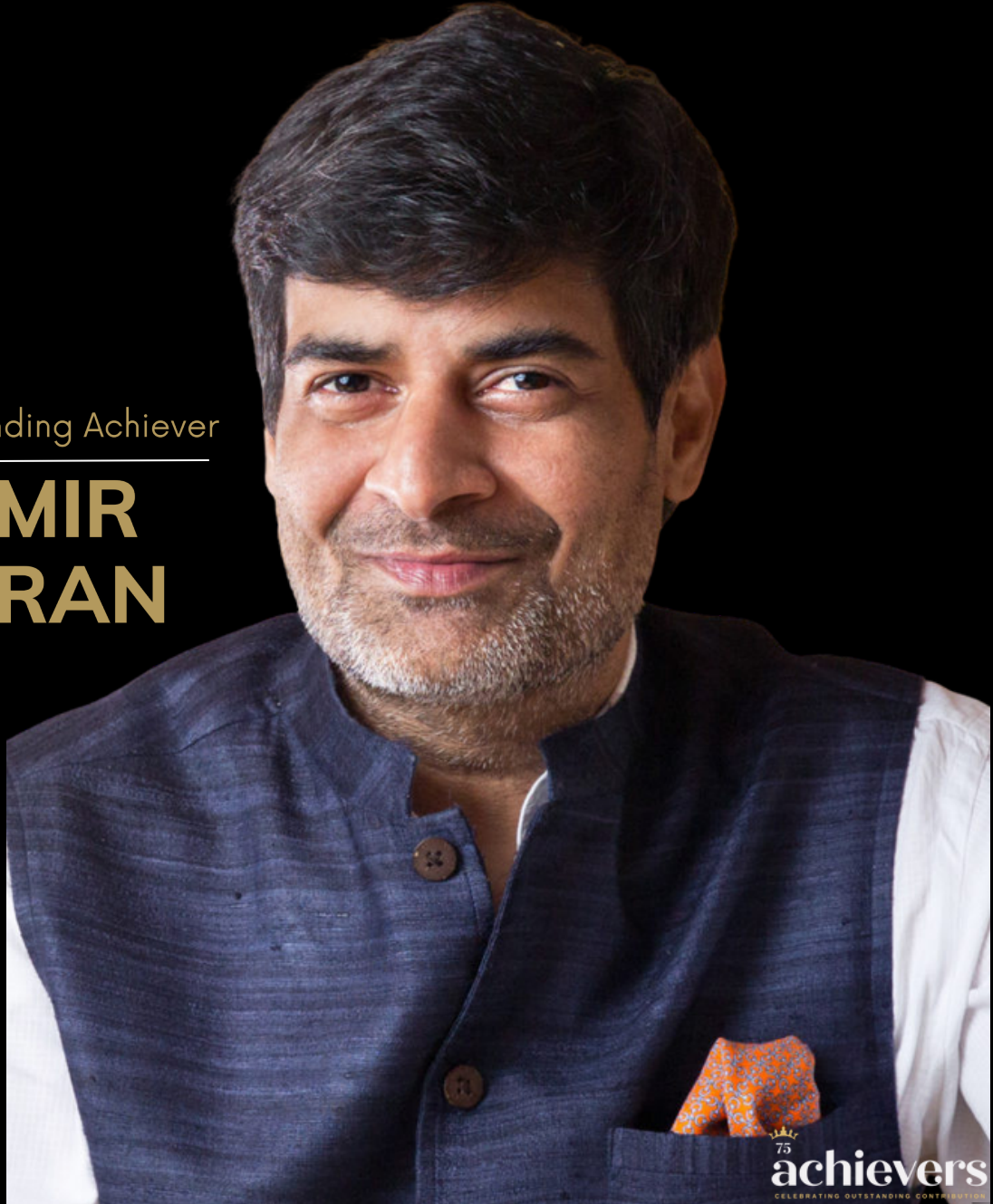


Shreyash Uday Lalit | Advocate, Supreme Court of India
University of Cambridge

Shreyash U. Lalit is an advocate practising in the Supreme Court of India, various High Courts and other fora. He completed his B.Tech from IIT Guwahati in 2014, and thereafter, pursued his LLB from Delhi University in 2014-17. He went on to complete his LL.M from the University of Cambridge in 2017-18 as a Tata Trust, Narottam Sekhsaria, Trust and Pegasus Scholar."

Outstanding Achiever

SAMIR SARAN



Samir Saran | Policy Maker

Outstanding Achiever - Policy and Society
Anglia Ruskin University

Samir Saran is the President of Observer Research Foundation (ORF), one of Asia's most influential think tanks. He curates the Raisina Dialogue, India's annual flagship platform on geopolitics and geo-economics, and is the founder of CyFy, India's annual conference on cybersecurity and internet governance. Samir is a member of the India-CEO Climate Action Group, Global Risks Advisory Board, and the Regional Action Group of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Policy and Society



Amy Nishtha Satyam | Head of Office for Timor-Leste, UN Women
University of Nottingham

Amy was appointed as the Head of Office for Timor-Leste in UN Women, the entity of the United Nations that is dedicated to working towards Gender Equality & Woman's Empowerment in 2021. As the youngest woman to head a country office for UN Women amongst 193 countries, she is an unapologetic feminist, a trained economist with a keen interest in applied macroeconomic and fiscal policy.

Ishrat Jahan | Development Professional
London School of Economics

Ishrat is a development professional with experience in social impact & institution-building. She has led large-scale multi-million projects & developed institutional mechanisms within Governments to ensure effective collaborations across sectors. Her work across thematic areas brought her to LSE on a fully-paid fellowship. She is currently an AFSEE Ambassador and works with World Economic Forum as South Asia Lead for Forest Restoration & Conservation projects.



Mitali Nikore | Economist & Policy Specialist
London School of Economics

Mitali advises several organisations including the World Bank, ADB, & UN agencies. She is experienced in gender mainstreaming, infrastructure dev, finance, policy advisory & social entrepreneurship. She has been selected as 'She is: 75 Indian women in STEAM' by the Government of India & one of the 22For2022 industry leaders by Forbes magazine. She is a widely published researcher and writer with leading media houses.



Nabila Jamshed | Governance Specialist, UN
University of Oxford

Kabila is a global Governance Specialist working with the United Nations, and a vocal public voice for multilateralism and global cooperation in building international peace and security. She has delivered ten TEDx talks and lectured at universities around the world on multilateralism.



Pravin Sanjay Nikam | Social Entrepreneur
London School of Economics

Educator and founder of the non-profits Samata Center & Roshni Foundation, Pravin enables people at the grassroots by creating access to education, justice and reproductive health rights. He served as a Commonwealth Election Observer for Zambia & has been honoured with the esteemed National Youth Award by the Indian government.



Policy and Society



Pratishtha Deveshwar | Disability Activist
University of Oxford

Pratishtha is a Diana Award Recipient - UK's highest honour recognising the next generation of humanitarian change makers. Her journey from a road accident that left her paralysed from chest-down at the age of thirteen, to making history by becoming the first ever wheelchair-user from India to study at Oxford, is an inspiration for all!

Ruma Bhargava | Country Lead Healthcare WEF
University of Oxford

Dr Ruma leads the health vertical of the World Economic Forum; and is the founder of NGO, 'Samarpann' which has been awarded by the Government of India for serving children across 7 states in rural India. She previously worked with International Red Cross, is a professor, columnist and clinician.



Shalmalee Aidor | Health Policy Consultant
University of Warwick

Shalmalee is a health professional & public policy consultant. She is passionate about outcomes in health, gender & governance in India. Currently, she is working as a Chief Minister's Fellow in the Office of the Deputy Chief Minister of the Government of NCT of Delhi. In the past she has helped build multi-stakeholder platforms in Jharkhand and Maharashtra to advocate for improved health outcomes of children.

Urvashi Prasad | Director, NITI Aayog
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Urvashi is a Director in the Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office, NITI Aayog. She is part of the team supporting the work of Government of India's Empowered Group 1 for managing Covid-19 pandemic. Urvashi co-authored India's first Voluntary National Review presented at the United Nation's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development & has over 150 publications to her credit.



Vignesh Krishnan V | City Director, Teach for India
University College London

Vignesh is an educator and was part of the founding cohort of Teach For India Delhi. He is a Chevening scholar and joined the Hyderabad team of Teach For India as the City Director in early 2020, where he plays a critical role in unleashing the potential and power of a local movement for educational equity.

Outstanding Achiever

MARYA SHAKIL



*Marya Shakil | Senior Political Editor & Anchor
Outstanding Achiever - Media & Journalism
Birmingham City University*

Marya Shakil is an award-winning Indian television journalist, political editor and TV news anchor with CNN-News18. She hosts the network's shows News Epicenter and Reporters Project. Her show on the Muslim yearning to be part of the mainstream earned her the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Award in politics and government category in 2012.

Media & Journalism



Chaitanya Marpakwar | Journalist, Times of India
Cardiff University

Chaitanya is an award-winning investigative journalist with the Times of India. He has won the prestigious Ramnath Goenka award twice, for his reportage on the Save Aarey movement, and his series of investigative reports on the penguin purchase scam at the Mumbai Zoo.

Danish Khan | Journalist & Historian
University of Oxford

Danish has been covering the UK and Europe for Times Now, ET Now, Mumbai Mirror, Hindustan Times, MoneyControl for over a decade. He was awarded Martin Senior scholarship and Amersi Foundation scholarship. He has co-authored 'Escaped - True stories of Indian fugitives in London' and taught at Stanford and Oxford. He is the President of the UK's Indian Journalists' Association.



Gaggan Sabherwal | Senior Reporter, BBC
Nottingham Trent University



Gaggan Sabherwal is a Senior Reporter with the BBC. She is an award-winning multi-platform investigative journalist, reporter, digital media producer, current affairs, and documentary film maker. She won the News Reporter of the Year award in 2017.

Rahul Kanwal | News Director, India Today
Cardiff University

Rahul is an Indian TV Journalist & News Director of India Today Group. He hosts the prime-time show Newstrack on weekdays and interview based show, Jab We Met. He leads news gathering & operations for the network, managing a team of 500+ reporters. The stories he helps curate are featured across 5 television channels and 20 digital platforms, with a cumulative reach of nearly 500 million consumers.



Media & Journalism



Raksha Kumar | *Multimedia Journalist*

University of Westminster

Raksha is an award-winning freelance journalist, with a specific focus on human rights. She has reported from 12 countries across the world and a hundred districts in India for outlets such as The New York Times, BBC, NPR, the Guardian, TIME, Foreign Policy, South China Morning Post and The Hindu. She is a Fulbright and Chevening scholar.

Rohit Jaiswal | *Journalist & Strategy*

University of Stirling

Rohit is Vice President of NDTV, where he heads distribution sales. He has been responsible for expanding the reach and distribution footprint of the news channels in both India & others countries with sizeable Indian Diaspora and make it a global channel on the likes of BBC, CNN, Al-Jazeera and the likes. Today NDTV channels are available in over 70 countries reaching 100m households, enabling others in India to follow suit.



Srijana Das | *Senior Editor, The Times of India*

London School of Economics, University of Cambridge

Dr Das is Senior Editor (Print & Digital) at The Times of India Group. She is the Editor-In-Chief of Times Evoke & Economic Times Evoke which focus on climate change & sustainability. An 'India-France Young Leader', she writes on diverse issues, from the environment to gender and development. She has interviewed eminent global personalities inc President Joe Biden.

A professional portrait of Adar Poonawalla, a man with dark hair, wearing a dark grey suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a blue tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

Outstanding Achiever

ADAR POONAWALLA

 **achievers**
CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

Adar Poonawalla | Business

Outstanding Achiever - Business & Entrepreneurship
University of Westminster

Adar is the CEO of the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, Serum Institute of India (SSI), which led the large-scale manufacturing of the University of Oxford's COVID-19 vaccine. He is a board member of the GAVI alliance. He is a philanthropist and named on the Forbes philanthropy list of Asia's Heroes.

Business & Entrepreneurship



Abhishek Rungta | Entrepreneur
University of Bath

Abhishek Rungta is a tech enthusiast turned entrepreneur, who turned his passion into his career and bootstrapped one of the largest digital technology businesses out of Eastern India. The business was born in Bengal, grew all over India, and had an impact globally. He has been an active angel investor for over a decade and has backed 220+ startups with several successful exits. He launched his investment business - Seeders in 2021. He continues to scale his own enterprise - INT. year after year; besides incubating & investing in high-potential businesses & entrepreneurs.

Adrija Biswas | Entrepreneur
University of Warwick

Global corporate leader, motivational speaker, innovator, singer, humanitarian, 9/11 Survivor and beauty queen - Mrs India UK Universe 2019. She has received the FCA Eureka Award for innovative solution to empower vulnerable and disenfranchised women. She launched RASA - Rise and Shine Again, an initiative to empower you to build a better you.



Anu Shah | Entrepreneur
University of Leeds

Anu is a globally successful entrepreneur and a powerful advocate for gender parity through entrepreneurship and innovation. She is the founder of EFI Hub, Asia and Africa's first virtual start-up accelerator, which was acquired by Acorn Capital in 2018. She has built and sold startups in the HR Tech space in South East Asia and in the United States. She is currently with Meta, leading Brand Advertising initiatives.

Dev Aditya | Entrepreneur
Brunel University London

Dev Aditya co-founded Otermans Institute which upskills underserved learners in 13+ countries. It helped 35,000 during the pandemic. He built the first AI virtual teacher (humanoid) for displaced & refugee learners in the world. He is currently pursuing his PhD and was awarded by UK's Prime Minister in 2021 for his educational work, named Global Young Innovator by Innovate UK for work in AI, was an Under 30 Entrepreneur & Alumni of the Year of Brunel University.



Karmanya Singh Sareen | Entrepreneur
Imperial College London

Karmanya is Partner at Kommit Techno-Legal LLP, an intellectual property consulting firm in Delhi, India, which was recently awarded the Best Emerging Intellectual Property Consultant Firm - India by APAC Insider. He is the Director of the England Kabaddi Union, through which he promotes Kabaddi in the UK. He is a data privacy enthusiast, and is the main petitioner in the primary case looking at the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right in light of digital privacy.

Business & Entrepreneurship

Kaushal Shah | Entrepreneur
University of Warwick

Kaushal is the founder and CEO of envopAP - a UK-based company creating innovative and circular packaging solutions to reduce unnecessary deforestation, air pollution and maximise the usage of waste. By repurposing discarded agro-fibres, envopAP has saved over 1 million trees globally from deforestation, and Kaushal hopes to increase this number to 10 million by 2030. In 2021, Kaushal was honoured by Forbes magazine in the prestigious '30 Under 30' list for Europe.



Prerna Mukharya | Social Entrepreneur
University of Oxford

Prerna is the Founder of Outline India, a for-profit social enterprise. Outline India has worked across 60,000+ villages covering over 5.5 million enabling partners to track change, measure and grow impact. She was featured on Fortune magazine's 40 under 40 and was named a 'Woman-trailblazer' by Forbes. She is a Delhi University 'Distinguished alumna award' recipient.

Prerna Wadikar | Entrepreneur
University of Oxford

Prerna has a rich portfolio career in entrepreneurship, climate finance, technology, clean energy, and gender working across multinationals, philanthropies and governments in 7 countries and 25 states in India. Prerna is the CEO of Action for India and a board member of Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief. She is also a startup mentor with various global organisations.



Punit Goyal | Entrepreneur
Aston University

Punit has been a serial entrepreneur in the renewable energy space and has founded 3 solar startups (PLG Power, PLG Photovoltaic and PLG Clean Energy) between 2008 to 2017 and invested US\$150 mln in the clean energy projects. He also co-founded BluSmart - India's largest fully electric ridehailing service and India's largest EV charging network.

Purva Aggarwal | Entrepreneur
University of Hertfordshire

Purva is a celebrated entrepreneur, writer, business development expert and investment banker. She is the first female solopreneur in India and third globally to enter the 'children's online banking & wallet' space with her startup called Good Good Piggy. She is the Ambassador of the India Chapter of Women in Tech, an international non-profit.



Business & Entrepreneurship



Sadiq Basha | Entrepreneur

University of Greenwich

Sadiq set up his own institution in 2010 (formerly known as New College Manchester) and now called New College Group (NCG). In 2018, he set up Edvoy Technologies, a product development and services company. Today, Edvoy and IEC Abroad are highly successful global companies with offices in the UK, India, Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, China & Saudi Arabia.

Tripti Maheshwari | Entrepreneur

City, University of London

Tripti is the founder and director of Student Circus, a one-of-its-kind employability platform for international students in the UK. She is committed to using her entrepreneurial efforts to advocate for #InternationalAtWork and create a better employability ecosystem.



Utkarsh Amitabh | Entrepreneur and Author

University of Oxford

Utkarsh is the Chief Marketing Officer of 5ire.org, a blockchain unicorn valued at \$1.5 Billion. 5ire.org acquired a stake in his company Network Capital (networkcapital.tv), one of the world's largest mentorship platforms that empowers 1.6 million school students and 150,000+ young professionals to build meaningful careers. He has authored two best selling books published by Sage.



Vibin Joseph | Technology Entrepreneur

Imperial College London

Dr Joseph, CEO of BioZEEN is a co-founder and technopreneur. He stewards global operations that process and formulate more than a billion doses of vaccines every year, across 5 continents through self-managing teams. Vibin inspires positive change as a One Young World Ambassador and Gates Foundation Goalkeeper for UN sustainable development goals.



Outstanding Achiever

SOMDIP DEY

Somdip Dey | Artificial Intelligence Researcher

Outstanding Achiever - Education, Science & Innovation

University of Manchester

Somdip is a machine learning researcher, educator, entrepreneur & electronic music producer. He is credited with co-developing the Nosh app, an AI-based food management app, aiming to reduce food waste in the household. Dey also co-founded Nosh Technologies & is currently the CEO & Chief Scientist in the company. He is also a Lecturer of Computer Science at the University of Essex & the Danah Zohar Chair Professor of Quantum Philosophy at Worsen University, India.

 75
achievers
CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

Education, Science & Innovation

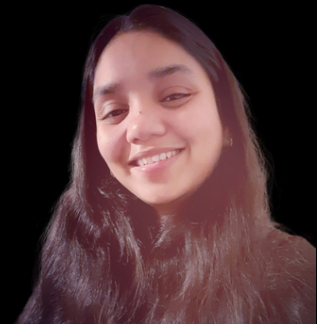


Anthony Vipin Das | Ophthalmologist & Innovator
University of Oxford

Dr Das is a Network Associate Director & Consultant Ophthalmologist at the L V Prasad Eye Institute. He built eyeSmart EMR, an Electronic Medical Record & Hospital Management System that clocked in over 10.5 million consultations across 316 centers in 5 countries. His research focuses on big data & the application of data science in ophthalmology. He is a TED Senior Fellow & named among the Top 35 Innovators under 35 in the world by Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Anushree Srivastava | Astrobiologist
University of Oxford

Anushree is an Astrobiologist & finds ways to answer the big question - was there (microbial) life on Mars? Her research involves conducting chemical & biological experiments under simulated Mars conditions to understand how the signatures of microorganisms can be preserved within Mars-like substrates & detected on Mars. She is well travelled across the earth; her job has taken her from hot to cold deserts, the Arctic to a km-deep mine & ultimately to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre.



Arundhuti Gupta | Changemaker
University of Manchester

Arundhuti founded Mentor Together, a non-profit that provides mentoring relationships & networks to young people from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. The platform has been accessed by over 32,000 users. She is an Ashoka Fellow, a Brookings Echidna Global Scholar, a World Economic Forum Global Shaper & was a UK-India Commonwealth Scholar.

Beena Koshy | Paediatrician
Imperial College London

Beena is a developmental paediatrician, with a passion to set standards for clinical service & research in childhood development & disability in India. She has experience of being a clinical-academic in both India & UK & has been part of various international collaborations. Her research interests include early childhood experiences, cognition & autism spectrum disorder. She has been extensively published & has been awarded the Fellowship of Indian Academy of Paediatrics & the India Alliance ICPH Fellowship.



Education, Science & Innovation



Dr Harmandeep Singh | Cardiologist, NHS
University of Buckingham

Dr Singh is a Consultant in Cardiology & Clinical Lead for Ealing Community Heart Failure Service. He is a Consultant in Acute Medicine at Ealing Hospital, Clinical Lead for the Virtual Ward Program for LNWH Hospitals, Divisional Chief Clinical Information Officer for Ealing Hospital & Ealing Hospital's Covid-response lead. He is a Trustee at Heartlink Charity & a fellow at the Royal College of Physicians. He runs Heart-to-Heart, a support programme for heart failure patients, & runs various health check camps in Punjab; where he also has an educational fund set up to provide free education to students.

Dr Jagadis Kapuganti | Scientist and Innovator
University of Oxford

Jagadis works as Scientist V at the National Institute of Plant Genome Research. He is founder of startup Fruvetech Pvt Ltd and developed novel technology to enhance shelf-life of fruits & vegetables. He has received prestigious awards and fellowships, including a Marie Curie Fellowship, a Max Planck Fellowship, a Ramalingaswami Fellowship, AAB member UK, an Innovative Young Biotechnology Award, and BIRAC-BIG grant.



Dr Maitreyee Wairagkar | Neuroscientist
University of Reading

Dr Maitreyee is a neuroscientist and neuroengineer developing assistive neurotechnology using artificial intelligence to restore lost function in people with neurological disorders. She builds brain-computer interfaces to enable people with severe motor & speech impairments to communicate directly via their brain signals by breaking barriers between humans & technology. She is a postdoctoral fellow at University of California, Davis. Previously, she was at Imperial College London. She has received PhD and MEng in AI and Cybernetics from University of Reading.



Manisha Nair | Clinical Epidemiologist
University of Oxford

Manisha is a clinical epidemiologist. She is an Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. She established, and is the Chief Investigator of the Maternal & Perinatal Health Research collaboration, India (MaatHRI), a large UK-India collaboration for maternal and perinatal health research. Manisha won the Asian Women of Achievement Awards in Science in 2019.



Education, Science & Innovation



Meghna Asthana | Researcher
University of York

Meghna is a highly trained, reliable and focused AI and Computer Vision Researcher. Her portfolio consists of a myriad of government, non-profit and academic projects - the most prominent of them being a Data Science for Social Good Fellow at The Alan Turing Institute & the University of Warwick. She has collaborated with the UK Government, UNICEF, NASA, ESA and ISRO on multiple projects.

Meghna Puri | President, WWI
King's College London

She is the President of Whistling Woods International (WWI). She also spearheaded Marketing & International Distribution activities for India's leading entertainment company, Mukta Arts Ltd. At WWI, she has led the launch of 9 schools in the field of Film, Communication & Creative Arts. She was awarded the Honorary Fellowship by Bradford College for her contribution to Media Education and and in 2022 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Rai University.



Michelle Fernandes | Environmental Scientist
University of East Anglia

Michelle is an Environmental Scientist with International and National onboard research experience. She has worked extensively in the Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, & East Antarctic lakes. She specializes in generating high-quality oceanographic data to study the biogeochemical processes. She was actively involved in the Nansen project of the United Nations - Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Dr Narendra Kumar | Cardiologist
London School of Economics

Narendra is a Board Certified Cardiologist with a Ph.D. in atrial fibrillation. He is the program chair for Texila American university and a visiting professor- Cardiology for EDU(Germany, Malta). He was key to the approval of the world's first epicardial VT ablation catheter. He proctored in initiating interventional EP ablation procedures across India at Raipur, Bhopal, Patna, Assam, Kolkata etc.



Education, Science & Innovation



Nitesh Kumar Jangir | Researcher and Innovator
University of Oxford

Nitesh is a co-founder of Coeo Labs and InnAccel, a medical device company with a vision to prevent preventable deaths in the field of emergency and critical care. He was also a part of the Stanford India Biodesign Program where he developed and commercialized a device to safely tap pleural fluid. This technology (Thorashield) was licensed to a medical device manufacturing company.

Nivi Manchanda | Reader, Queen Mary University of London
University of Cambridge

Reader in International Politics at Queen Mary, University of London. She is the co-editor of 'Race and Racism in International Relations: Confronting the Global Colour Line' (Routledge, 2014). Her monograph 'Imagining Afghanistan: the History and Politics of Imperial Knowledge' (CUP, 2020) was awarded the LHM Ling First Outstanding Book Prize by the British International Studies Association.



Prashant Pillai | Associate Dean, University of
Wolverhampton
University of Bradford

Professor Pillai is an award-winning academic leader and visionary in the field of computer science. He is currently Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge Exchange and Professor of cyber security for the Faculty of Science and Engineering. He is also the Director of Cyber Quarter - The Midlands Centre for cyber Security

Education, Science & Innovation



Raju Kendre | Activist

SOAS, University of London

Raju is a first-generation learner who hails from the Nomadic Tribe community of the Vidarbha region in Central India. His own life experience with accessing higher education opportunities motivated him to start 'Eklavya India'. Eklavya advocates for higher education of first-generation learners and builds grassroots leadership. He has been part of Forbes and Hindustan Times 30 under 30.

Reshma Rao | Research Fellow, Imperial College London
University of Southampton

Reshma is a Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellow at Imperial College London. She works on understanding atomic-level (electro)chemical mechanisms at catalytic interfaces to discover next generation materials for energy conversion technologies. She holds a MEng degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Southampton & a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She conducted her postdoctoral research at Imperial College London. She is passionate about education and promoting diversity in science.



Dr Srijan Jindal | Researcher
University of Manchester



Born in Varanasi, Srijan completed my undergraduate studies at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee in 2016 and his Ph.D. at the University of Manchester in 2019. He worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Liverpool for a year after which he spun out a medical device company "PhenUtest Diagnostics Ltd." and is working towards commercializing a revolutionary rapid UTI diagnostic kit as the Chief Scientific Officer for the company.

Dr Suphiya Khan | Innovator and Researcher
University of Oxford

Dr Khan is presently an Associate Professor and Founder of the start-up Drumlins Water Technologies Pvt Ltd at Banasthali Vidyapith which is the world's largest residential NAAC A++ Women University. She is the recipient of many national and international awards. She has developed a patented and affordable world class scalable sensor equipped de-fluoridation technology for drinking water.



Education, Science & Innovation



Tarunabh Khaitan | Educator
University of Oxford

Tarunabh is the Head of Research at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at the University of Oxford, the Professor of Public Law & Legal Theory at the Faculty of Law at Oxford, a Fellow at Mansfield College, & an Honorary Professorial Fellow at Melbourne Law School. He is the founding General Editor of the Indian Law Review & founder & advisor of the Junior Faculty Forum for Indian Law Teachers.

Vivek Chandrakant Gurav | Environmentalist
University of Bristol

Vivek is a Environmentalist who was awarded the 'Points of Light' award by the UK Prime Minister for his 'Plogging' campaign. Plogging combines jogging and litter picking as a way to sensitise people in India and the UK, while connecting youth across the globe to drive change in communities. He has been a Global Youth Ambassador, a TEDx speaker and a Think Big Scholar at University of Bristol



**SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT**

UK-India TOEFL® NISAU Scholarships worth \$75000

25 outstanding students will receive \$3000 each to study in the UK

At the Achievers Honours Gala in London, to mark India at 75, ETS at 75, NISAU at 10 & India-UK ties, NISAU and ETS TOEFL® proudly announce the 'UK-India TOEFL® NISAU Scholarships' worth \$75000 awarded to 25 outstanding Indian students for higher education at any UK university

The objective of the scholarships is to enable the TOEFL NISAU scholars to become visionary leaders through undertaking world-class academic study, professional exposure and immersive cultural experiences in the UK that they may not otherwise have had the chance to experience.

It is hoped that this in turn will endow them with global skills and familiarities to help them contribute to India's socio-economic development and further the India-UK relationship. The scholarships focus on identifying and championing emerging leaders who have demonstrated actual or potential outstanding social impact through their proactive work in their chosen extracurricular field(s).

In addition to the financial grant of \$3000 for each successful TOEFL® NISAU scholar, scholars will also benefit from becoming a valued member of the NISAU community including access to invite-only and other NISAU events and activities.

Eligibility criteria:

- An essay on 'Creating a social impact with a UK-based education'
- Outline your outstanding attributes, both personal and academic
- A UK University offer letter demonstrating that you are a genuine applicant, intending to study on a fee-paying undergraduate or postgraduate course at a degree level or above
- Must be enrolling for the first time at a UK University
- A TOEFL® test score of 75 out of 120
- Must be an Indian passport holder at the point of application for the scholarship

Application Process:

Submissions need to be made via the TOEFL NISAU scholarships portal. A jury panel consisting of the NISAU, UK University and TOEFL representatives will determine the winners of this scholarship.

Applications need to be made by no later than 12 May 2023

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ETS UNLOCKS HUMAN POTENTIAL

As the world's largest non-profit educational assessment and measurement organisation, ETS each year, develops, administers and scores tens of millions of tests. Sandy Bhangal, Executive Director of Global Strategy and Growth tells the Living Bridge how this 75-year- non-profit organisation has achieved a Numero Uno status in the field of global assessments in education

Assessment and measurement play an important role in the field of education and research. How vital are they to chart one's academic and career path?

At ETS, we believe in the fundamental power of assessment and its ability to unlock human potential. At the core, assessments are about generating useful data – to help learners structure their educational and career journeys; to help institutions improve the way they teach and support students; to help employers find and train the best candidates; and to help governments set policies for the greater good.

Tell us a little more about the research that goes into creating tests.

ETS is the world's largest nonprofit educational assessment, research and learning organization and our Research & Development (R&D) division is the largest division within the organization. Our R&D staff is made up of internationally recognised and distinguished research scientists, psychometricians, data analysts and assessment experts. For nearly 75 years, ETS has worked with organizations worldwide to design, evaluate, equate, scale and score assessments that meet the highest quality standards. To provide fair and valid assessments, our psychometric and data analytic expertise ensures that the design, analyses and scoring of assessments results in accurate, timely and equitable scores for all test takers.

How do you ensure there is fairness, reliability and validity in these assessments?

ETS has a robust process that ensures the fairness, reliability, and validity of all our assessments which is consistent throughout the end-to-end testing



Sandy Bhangal

process. It starts with test design and development, where test items are created by human assessment experts and tested with real people in the field to ensure they are fair and unbiased. During our test administrations, we rely on our industry-leading test security protocols, supported by a combination of human-led and AI-supported process, to maintain the integrity of our tests. After tests are complete, our scoring process is designed to validate scores before they are released which ensures they are accurate representations of test takers' skills and what they know and can do.

Tell us a little bit about your operations in India and what products or research has been uniquely shaped by the experience of Indian students.

Our ETS India team celebrated its 1-year anniversary in November 2022. In just one year, we've had numerous accomplishments: from significantly increasing the volume of TOEFL and GRE test registrations to launching TOEFL iBT Paper Edition. We are also offering promotions specific to Indian test takers, such as discounts on TOEFL iBT when you register for the GRE

General Test. We have established the Business School Advisory Council (BSAC) in India and hosted capacity-building webinars with the Central Board of Secondary Education on test development, assessment design and item analysis.

How can students use TOEFL scores to study in the UK and what products have been designed to ensure the highest standards are met?

TOEFL iBT scores are accepted by 100% of UK universities. Students pursuing a student route visa can take the TOEFL iBT test to fulfill the English-language requirement. The calibre of Indian students is high, which is reflected in their TOEFL iBT scores as well as their progress within courses and retention within programs, such as those in the UK.

What is a popular myth about TOEFL in India?

One myth about TOEFL is that it's only for students looking to study abroad in the United States. The truth is, TOEFL iBT is the world's most widely accepted and respected English-language test, which is 100% accepted in the US, Canada, the UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. Test takers have more than 11,500 institutions in more than 160 countries to choose from.

What is the road ahead for ETS now?

ETS is embracing global expansion and meeting our customers where they are. We've been able to expand our products and services more broadly and help learners achieve global mobility. This global experience is a cornerstone to global citizenship – a paramount skill for the 21st century – which ultimately enables us to engage in a global economy.

The right scholarship

In collaboration with the UK's GREAT Britain campaign, the British Council's Great Scholarships 2020 covers a broad range of subjects and offers a great opportunity for Indian students wishing to access a UK university education



Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship:

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan provides opportunities to students of Commonwealth countries who can make a significant contribution to their home country after the completion of a higher education programme in the UK. This is a source of funding made available to all Commonwealth countries by the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission.

Charles Wallace India Trust Scholarships (CWIT):

CWIT enables Indians in the early to mid-stages of their careers to spend time in the UK, helping them to achieve artistic, academic and professional ambitions and to broaden their international contacts.

A.S Hornby Trust Scholarships:

The scholarships are intended to support English language teachers. The application process, amount of scholarship and criteria will differ for each scholarship. There are a number of other scholarship schemes run by governments, charities and organisations.

Chevening Scholarship:

Chevening is the UK government's international awards scheme aimed at developing global leaders. Funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and partner organisations, Chevening offers two types of awards – Chevening Scholarships and Chevening Fellowships.

The recipients of these are rigorously selected by British Embassies and High Commissions throughout the world.

Scotland's Saltire Scholarships:

Scotland's Saltire Scholarships is a programme of scholarships offered by the Scottish Government in collaboration with Scottish universities in the areas of science, technology,

creative industries, healthcare and medical sciences, and renewable and clean energy.

Felix Scholarship:

The Felix Scholarship was founded to offer gifted underprivileged students from India and certain other developing countries the opportunity of furthering their postgraduate education by attending a university in the UK. Felix scholarships are offered at three universities - the University of Oxford, the University of Reading and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), part of the University of London. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit and financial need.

Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation:

The Foundation focuses on providing scholarships, grants and awards in various fields to young Indians to enable them to develop their professional, scientific, artistic and cultural abilities, both abroad and in India. It prides itself on being open to a wide range of subjects, many of which are not covered by other fund-giving

bodies. Opportunities in India are offered through the Inlaks India Foundation.

Rhodes Scholarship: The Rhodes Scholarship programme is the oldest (established 1903) international scholarship programme in the world, and one of the most prestigious. Administered by the Rhodes Trust in Oxford, the programme offers 100 fully-funded Scholarships each year for postgraduate study at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom - one of the world's leading universities. Rhodes Scholarships are for young leaders of outstanding intellect and character who are motivated to engage with global challenges, committed to the service of others and show promise of becoming value-driven, principled leaders for the world's future.

The Royal Society:

This scheme offers a recognised first step into an independent research career for outstanding scientists and engineers at an early stage of their research career. This scheme offers an opportunity to focus on own research,

freeing from administrative and teaching duties.

Ford Foundation: International Fellowships Program - The Ford Foundation Global Fellowship program seeks a diverse array of committed individuals who have demonstrated meaningful impact, but whose full potential has yet to be unleashed because of a lack of resources or access to a global network. The fellows will focus on analysing and addressing the root causes of inequality.

British Council Scholarships

for Women in STEM: This scholarship covers all academic and living expenses, for women to study full-time, a 1-year Master's programme in any STEM subject in the UK, beginning in September/October 2021. There are up to 85 scholarships open to students across the world, with 40 scholarships specifically for women from South Asia. There are 15 scholarships for Bangladesh, 10 for India, 10 for Pakistan and 5 more across Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.



Tried crowd funding for financing studies?

When Mohammad Ibrar received an unconditional offer for a postgraduate course at a top UK university but no scholarship, he turned to crowd-funding and was able to raise enough to pay his tuition and accommodation through the generosity of strangers.

It all started with a dream. When I was a very young boy living in Calcutta, I heard about my uncle travelling to Canada to study. I had only met him a couple of times for he lived far away in a different city, but his achievement of bagging a seat in a foreign university affected me greatly. It was from that moment I wanted to study more, study better and eventually see the world. As a first-generation graduate and coming from a middle-class family my dream was met with countless obstacles. These included, and were not limited to financial troubles. It was the perseverance and support of my parents that helped me finish school, get a degree from a good university

in 2016 and eventually become a journalist, working as a senior correspondent with the Times of India newspaper in New Delhi. This journey, from being a young starry-eyed boy in Calcutta to a working professional in the capital of India was borne out of years of relentless efforts and breaking through several obstacles. Thus, when humankind collectively met with an unpredictable obstacle in the form of the pandemic in 2020, I felt that I could rekindle my dream and find a way to learn more and reach where I had always wanted to be. The United Kingdom was always my first choice. The pedagogy in its universities,



On a wing and a prayer: Mohammad Ibrar's degree in MA in South Asian Area Studies at SOAS in London was financed through crowdfunding.

In just 40 days, I managed to secure funds for my tuition fees

the support and assistance to students, the cultural landscape and the career potential that a university in the UK can provide are unmatched. Hence, I applied for a Master's programme at the prestigious School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London. Despite my hectic job, covering major political events and the pandemic, I managed to send in my application in time and promptly received an unconditional offer. But this joy was short-lived. My scholarship applications did not turn out to be as positive as my college application. With no scholarships and bank loans not financially viable, my friends suggested I utilise the

crowdfunding avenue instead. While I had heard of crowdfunding as a viable option for many in the United States, I was sceptical about whether it would work in India, especially in the backdrop of the pandemic. Despite the initial lack of confidence, I decided to give it a go and began posting about my need for funds in May for my course that began in September. The fee cost was high - £21,000+ and I needed a well-planned strategy to reach my target. Initially, I focussed on the goodwill of acquaintances and friends. Eventually, I used social media extensively. My days were spent sending out tweets, tagging people on Twitter, making posts on Instagram, and messaging people on Facebook. I reached out to anyone who was willing to help me or was empathetic to my cause. From fellow journalists and academics to entrepreneurs, social media influencers and philanthropists, all chipped in by supporting me financially or promoting my Milaap.com crowdfunding link on their respective social media. The platform allowed

people to donate through bank transfers and through other digital banking means. I was astonished to see that so many people had faith in my dreams and trusted me. Their kindness and generosity are still overwhelming. Remarkably, in just 40 days I managed to secure funds for my tuition fees and a large portion of residential costs. This helped my family as they too were reeling from the impact of the pandemic. Now a year later, I remember how I would at times feel despondent and lacking in confidence but a sustained effort, support from family and friends; and the kindness of total strangers, brought me where I am today: holding my postgraduate degree in 2022 from one of London's top universities – SOAS. No longer an impossible feat for someone whose parents never finished school. Hence as part of my gratitude, I am already mentoring a few students from India from marginal communities with their college applications and I am constantly in touch with students taking the crowdfunding route by giving them guidance and support.



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FROM MARGINALITY TO THE CENTRE



Raju Kendre, a Chevening scholar at the School of African and Oriental Studies, writes about how grassroots programmes like Eklavya and scholarships like UK's Chevening help open up international education to India's marginalised

India is a nation of youth. With a 1.3 billion population and an average age of 29, the youth in India can form their own standalone country. Yet, in this land of dreams and opportunities, lies a grey zone related to access and resource mobilisation. The market for education, opportunities, resources, and jobs tends to miss a large proportion of the marginalised population (consisting of



Top

Eklavya Residential Workshop for postgraduate aspirants in Mangaon, Raigad, in Western India

Right

Lending a helping hand: Mentors guide aspirants through their application to international universities at Eklavya House in Yavatmal, Maharashtra



70 per cent of the country's population), making it harder for them to gain access. In such a grim backdrop, a movement like Eklavya was born in one of the remotest tribal regions of Melghat in Western Maharashtra, a region that witnesses one of the highest school drop-out rates and even worse malnutrition levels.

Leaders like Babasaheb Ambedkar, Chhatrapati Shahu Bhosale, Jyotiba Phule and others have proposed education as the only path to liberation for its oppressed masses.

Understanding the stark inequality and the need to amend it, Eklavya India Movement has taken on higher education as its core focus.

Eklavya has sent over 700 first-

Eklavya is on the mission to empower 10,000 students through quality higher education and leadership opportunities by 2030

generation learners from marginalised backgrounds to study in premier educational institutes. These students undergo four months of rigorous training to prepare for their entrance exams. Each year, Eklavya tries to reach out to a thousand students via its Undergraduate and Postgraduate preparatory programs.

After covering the scope of the university spaces in India, Eklavya has introduced its flagship Global Scholars Program (GSP) to prepare first-generation learners for opportunities and education in the best universities abroad. This mentorship initiative was inaugurated on the occasion of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary (14 April 2022) and the centenary of his academic journey at the London School of Economics. This programme was inspired by my own struggle with the application process due to a lack of information related to the drafting of personal

statements and essays. At present, Eklavya has more than 80+ students who are being mentored by over 15 people to prepare for their application process, scholarship, exams like TOEFL, IELTS, and find funding avenues. We were able to recognise the requirements of our participants, which led to IELTS lessons for the students. In the last five years, this intervention helped over 700 first-generation learners get admission into reputed universities and fellowship programs. Eklavya is on the mission to empower 10,000 students through quality higher education and leadership opportunities by 2030. We believe this will enable the community to achieve social mobility. A program like this is necessary for marginalised community students, as they can take the issues of their marginality to global spaces while also democratising their access to education by challenging the hegemony of certain groups.

Chevening scholarships open a portal to access and opportunities through a large network of influential people across the globe. Being a part of this circle is a matter of honour and privilege. I could learn and network via the Chevening circle, but more importantly my financial woes were resolved for a year which helped tremendously. For the work and vision of Eklavya, Chevening is a milestone. In coming years, we hope Chevening shapes the destiny of many from the community.

For a first-generation learner in Law and belonging to a backward community, to have such a remarkable, intelligent, and humble Mentor, is not only difficult but impossible. I feel that the debt, I owe to Eklavya and my Mentor, regardless of being selected or not in a foreign university, can never be discharged and I will forever be indebted.

Sanu Ranjan

MENTEES SPEAK



I have been looking for international application mentorship for quite some time. The services of admission consultants come with a very hefty charge, and I couldn't afford it. We are super fortunate to be part of GSP not only for the application process but overall moral and emotional support throughout the process.

Saurabh Bhojar



Enabling success: The Delhi - Cambridge effort

Mohammed Ibrar speaks to educationists from Delhi who visited the University of Cambridge for language skills training and knowledge exchange as part of greater collaborations between India and the British Council

Early in October 2022, Delhi's Education Minister Manish Sisodia met with 30 government school principals and Education Department officials who were to visit the University of Cambridge for a leadership training programme. This was the 14th batch of educationists arriving in the United Kingdom since a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the British Council and the Delhi government in 2018 as part of the government's push to develop school education in the city of Delhi.

Announcing the MOU, Sisodia had said that it will "entail training for spoken English for class 11th students of all Delhi government schools." Before the 14th batch departed from India, Sisodia asked the delegates to keep an open mind at the University of Cambridge and understand the best practices.

BK Sharma, principal of Shaheed Hemu Kalani Government Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, in South Delhi was one of those who went to the University of Cambridge in 2018 as part of the first batch. Praising the idea behind the program, he stated that educationists like him have greatly benefitted from the university visit.

"We participated in a leadership development program where we learnt new modules and teaching practices which we could then emulate in our schools," says Sharma, who is also the Officer on Special Duty for the Spoken English Cell.

The initiative to teach spoken English to government school students was part of Delhi government's plans to improve job prospects of their students and help them compete in the Indian economy where competency in English language is an asset.

"The Delhi government had some 4 to 5 years ago decided to sign an umbrella



The world's their stage: Students at a government school in New Delhi confidently performing a play in Spoken English

MOU for collaboration in education, language and culture. We wanted to show our intent of working together. Under this, we started a Spoken English program. It's for 11th grade students and it's a 120 hours programme," says Shailendra Sharma, Principal Advisor to Director Education, Government of Delhi. According to him, over the years, 64,000 students have benefitted from this program. "We also have the 'Premier League Primary Stars' project under this to train school coaches and teachers in football and encourages PSHE (personal, social, health, economic) education," he adds. The University of Cambridge visits, Sharma finds helped Delhi's teachers to

develop a new worldview. "When our teachers visit Cambridge, they see how trust building is done. And how special needs students are taught. The purpose of these exposures has helped teachers to use new techniques. We found teachers to be more adaptable and we can see that the students are doing well in exams and in sports," says Sharma. Over the years such MOUs have been instrumental in Delhi government's spoken English classes giving UK a collaborative partner in the education sphere in India. This is further expanding. The Delhi government now has an MOU with the University of East London for the sports university that they are developing.

The Route from Education to Employment



The Future Technology Centre at the University of Portsmouth

Kalrav Joshi explores the new Graduate route that offers international students an opportunity to work in the UK on completion of their studies

In 2021, the United Kingdom Home Office formally opened its new post-study visa for international students, which has enabled graduates from India—and other countries—an opportunity to apply for the right to stay on for employment experience after the completion of academic programmes. The Graduate route is intended for international graduates who receive their degree from a recognised UK university and wish to continue looking for employment for a maximum period of two more years (three years for Ph.D. students). This opening of the Graduate route visa possibly saw the light of the day because of the massive and relentless campaign undertaken by NISAU titled, 'Fair Visa Fair Chance'. Known for its impactful work, strengthening the Indo-UK relationship with a focus on education, and represent-

ing the grievances of students at the highest level, NISAU was one of the first organisations to recommend to the UK government the creation of a specific two-year employment and internship scheme for international students, that promises to be conducive to the growing economic opportunities in the UK, especially in the post-Brexit era. This, they believed, would encourage Indian students to effectively build an ecosystem to exhibit leadership, peer-to-peer community engagements, and cross-border learning opportunities. "Under the UK Government's points-based immigration system, talented students from India and across the globe now have the opportunity to kick start their careers in the UK at the highest levels of business, science, technology and the arts," a statement by the then Indian-origin Home

Secretary, Priti Patel said. "Once they have received their world-leading qualification from one of our fantastic education institutions, this new visa will give them the freedom to fulfil their aspirations and advance their careers."

Opportunities galore

It is a crucial step in the UK-India 2030

Indian students form the top three nationalities progressing onto the graduate route

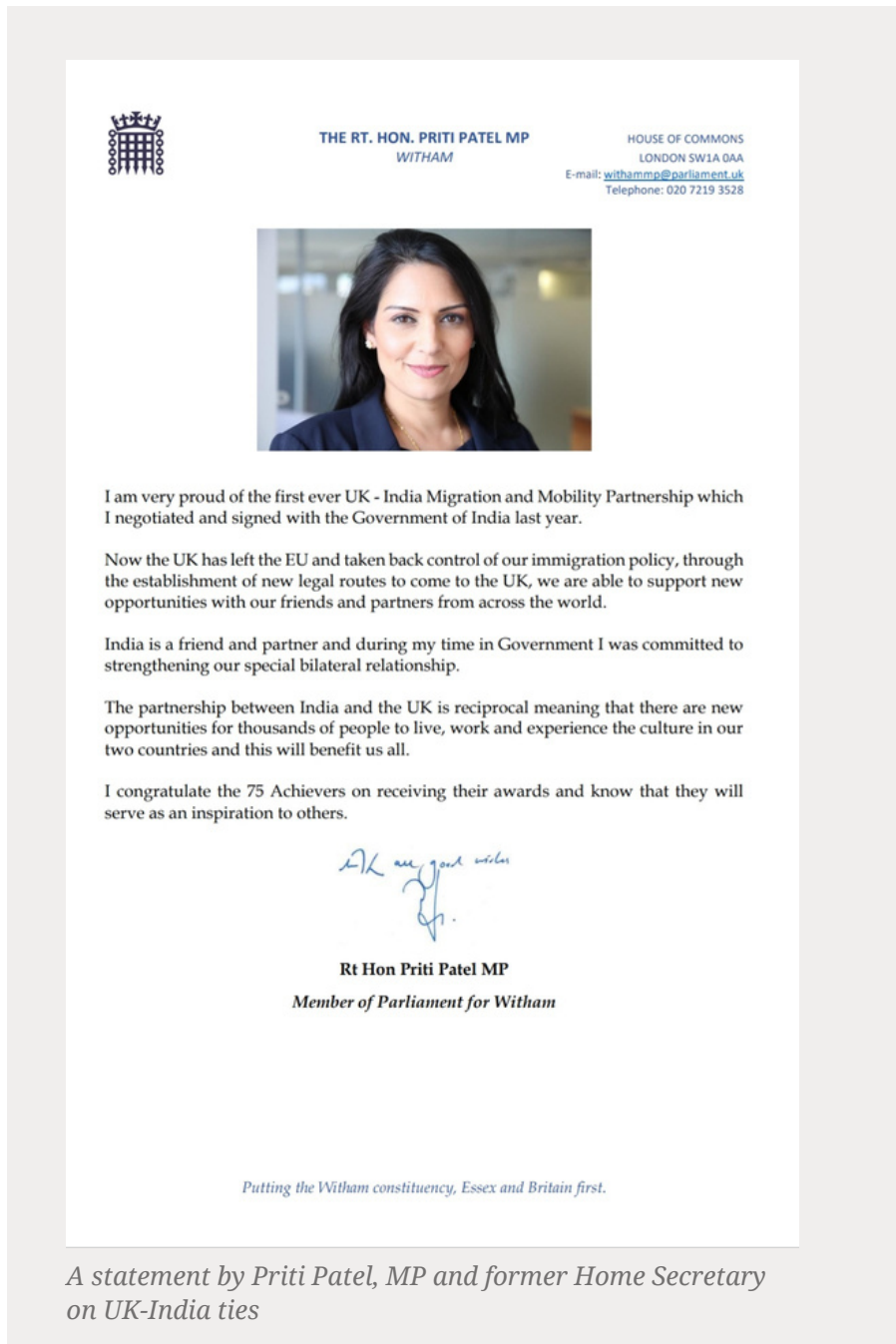
Roadmap, which was kicked off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then Britain Prime Minister Boris Johnson in May 2021. It aims to strengthen institutional ties between the two countries, including those between governments, the private sector, higher education, and civil society. As per the latest data available in June 2022, more than sixty-five thousand students were granted the new Graduate visa, out of which the Indian students form the top three nationalities progressing onto the graduate route.

“This is a brilliant opportunity for international students to make the most of the time allocated to them after completion of their masters. It is an extension to upskill themselves and an incredible opportunity further to help communities. There is so much to soak in from this part of the world and build bridges for both nations,” says Meghna Thakur, a recent graduate from Goldsmith University of London. “With the help of the graduate visa scheme, I am confident that I will be able to replenish the resources I have invested in my education. I will also be able to contribute to the UK market, which has given me so much in terms of communities and global exposure,” she adds.

During the last three years alone, nearly 1,65,000 Indians have obtained student visas for the UK, with a 96% acceptance rate for student visas. Up to 107,978 Indian students received study visas for the UK in the year ending in March 2022, a considerable increase of 93% over the prior year.

The recent statistics should not come as a surprise, given how desirable a study destination the UK has traditionally been for Indian students. It is likely due to prestigious academic institutions, top-notch professors and infrastructure, good health care, and a rigorous environment.

“There was a minimal opportunity to look for employment before this scheme was reintroduced because of the sponsorship constraints. However, with the help of this scheme, plenty of opportunities are open for you. My rigorous academic exposure as part of an MSc in International Social Public Policy at The London School of Economics helped me understand and



The image shows a formal statement document from Priti Patel MP. At the top left is the Royal Coat of Arms. To its right, the text reads 'THE RT. HON. PRITI PATEL MP WITHAM'. Further right, it says 'HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1A 0AA', 'E-mail: withamp@parliament.uk', and 'Telephone: 020 7219 3528'. Below this is a portrait of Priti Patel. The main text of the statement includes: 'I am very proud of the first ever UK - India Migration and Mobility Partnership which I negotiated and signed with the Government of India last year.', 'Now the UK has left the EU and taken back control of our immigration policy, through the establishment of new legal routes to come to the UK, we are able to support new opportunities with our friends and partners from across the world.', 'India is a friend and partner and during my time in Government I was committed to strengthening our special bilateral relationship.', 'The partnership between India and the UK is reciprocal meaning that there are new opportunities for thousands of people to live, work and experience the culture in our two countries and this will benefit us all.', and 'I congratulate the 75 Achievers on receiving their awards and know that they will serve as an inspiration to others.' Below the text is a handwritten signature in blue ink. Underneath the signature, it reads 'Rt Hon Priti Patel MP Member of Parliament for Witham'. At the bottom of the document, it says 'Putting the Witham constituency, Essex and Britain first.'

A statement by Priti Patel, MP and former Home Secretary on UK-India ties



Stavan Desai, student

contribute to policy-related domains. The academics have further enabled my extensive experience reporting on government policies and social issues,” says Stavan Desai, Senior Communications Officer, Police Federation of England and Wales. This horizon has not only pushed curious minds to enrol themselves in a variety of specialised courses offered by UK Universities but also has eased a lot of pressure on international students to feel confident about their future regarding securing better prospects after completing their studies in the UK. Indian students studying at colleges and universities in the United Kingdom

are most concerned about their career prospects. According to a recent analysis of how master's students choose UK colleges, employment possibilities were an essential factor swaying graduate students toward one institution over the other. At the same time, identified access to employment possibilities is one of the most significant disappointments among students.

Finding a job in a new country can be difficult for international students, primarily when cultural and hiring procedure variations are manifold. Various career services are available to facilitate transitions from education to employment by universities across the UK to provide career development services and help students with their future professional aspirations. Students come to the UK from India with a wide range of life experiences, interests, ambitions, and varying levels of preparation for their future careers. Though most universities' approach is based on the belief that everyone should be able to reflect on their values and experiences and explore interests



Hasti Modi, student

and opportunities, there is a significant gap in what is being served to the students.

Economic slowdown a barrier

However, the recent economic slump in the UK and a competitive housing market have added to the sufferings of many students' hopes. UK is living in exceptional times. Hunger is on the rise, as is many people's inability to pay their bills. Such a perilous situation necessitates an immediate response.

A support group for international

students is urgently needed. To begin with, Universities may appoint a dedicated team of mental health counsellors and practitioners to graduates who are no longer students. "However, one must understand that such schemes do not necessarily promise jobs in your chosen field. Despite having a work permit and relevant experience and skills and following the due process of effective and efficient applications, it takes months to hear positively for the first proper job, as the UK market looks volatile and uncertain. This process is frustrating and requires more intervention from the stakeholders," says Hasti Modi, a recent graduate from The London School of Economics and a recipient of the Diana Award for environmental initiatives in India, France, and the UK.

Alongside this, the waiting period for applying for a graduate visa until the University completes the marking procedure puts a lot of students in a precarious and difficult situation, despite having received a full-time job offer. "It is necessary to understand

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We believe the real journey of any International student starts when they arrive in the country. This is where we stand out by being that shoulder to lean on. Starting from Airport pick-up to accommodation, part-time job assistance and going that extra mile in providing health and well- being hand at the difficult time of Lockdown (UK only)

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Year	Count
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2016	~2000
2022	~3000

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that the scheme has not made life easier for students and young professionals. Though, it certainly has reduced the pressure of finding a job immediately rather than returning to the respective home countries after completing studies in the UK,” she adds.

The CEO of Network Capital and Chief Marketing Officer of 5ire.org, Utkarsh Amitabh, who is studying at University of Oxford, and is one of the chosen Achievers, says, “There are plenty of synergies between the UK and India, specifically in the areas of leadership development, growth, mentorship programmes, and AI education. It is a tough time for the economy, but peer-to-peer learning and communities could be the way to tackle this smoothly and swiftly. At the same time, the education institution also needs to introduce non-degree programmes and short-term courses to develop a holistic approach to skill-based education and make students better prepared for the future.”

Universities agree that more needs to be done. “Challenges like the increasing cost of living in the UK and the uncertainty of the Post Study Work visa and post career opportunities could have an effect on recruitment in the future,” says Simon Stanley, International Recruitment Manager (India) of Brunel University.

Global Alumni Network

Studying in the UK also has a lot of advantages when it comes to making a global network. By becoming a member of organisations like Alumni UK, you have access to the worldwide global professional network through which you can continue to learn and share knowledge and insights among peers. With lots of materials to assist advancement in career prospects, it is a significant space to amplify cross-

UK grads are considered among the most employable in the world



Andrew Chadwick, Global Programme Lead Alumni and Outward Mobility at British Council



Simon Stanley, Brunel University



Utkarsh Amitabh, student

border ties within and among your networks. UK grads are considered among the most employable in the world. Three-eighths of Nobel laureates who studied abroad did so in the UK, which also has the most extensive alumni network, connecting all those who attended any UK university. “The British Council has always believed in the importance of trust in building effective long-term relationships between UK and India and creating long-term impactful connections. By providing alumni networks and invoking the spirit of collaboration, connections can be categorically used to combat global challenges and social issues and genuinely impact lives,” says Andrew Chadwick, Global Programme Lead Alumni and Outward Mobility at British Council.

Kalrav Joshi is a journalist and writer currently based in the United Kingdom. He is an alumnus of The London School of Economics and Political Science where he studied Media, Communication and Development. He writes on a wide range of topics, including democracy, politics, culture and technology.

A quantum leap in UK-India business relations

The year 2022 has been very special for UK-India relations. It has marked the appointment of Britain's first Indian origin Prime Minister - Rishi Sunak, made extensive progress in the negotiations for the UK-India Free Trade Agreement and celebrated the 75th anniversary of India's independence on British soil. It is therefore an ideal moment to cherish the current opportunities and reflect on the future ties between the world's fifth and sixth largest economies. The UK-India relationship has been deep rooted in shared history, values, culture and a mutual respect for the rule of law. As we navigate through the unprecedented economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK and India remain firmly committed to delivering a quantum leap in our bilateral relationship, strengthening historical links between our two great nations.

Post-Brexit, the Indian economy is more important and relevant to the UK than ever before, as highlighted by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office's recent tilt towards the Indo-Pacific region for deeper cooperation on economic issues and security matters. Alongside the business relationship, there is an ambition to develop a closer defence and security partnership between both countries.

In May 2021, both Prime Ministers agreed on the 2030 Roadmap for India-UK future relations, which identified key areas of enhanced cooperation, ranging from climate change, education, healthcare, security to trade and investment. This includes doubling bilateral trade to support growth and drive economic development in both

With deep historical and cultural roots, India and the United Kingdom have always had strong bilateral ties, but in a post-Brexit, post-Covid 19 world, the Indian economy is more important and relevant to the UK than ever before, argues Amarjit Singh, founder and CEO of London-based India Business Group and Special India Advisor to the University of Southampton



countries. The inspiring UK-India living bridge, exemplified by Mr Sunak's premiership, binds our nations and is a key pillar to realising this Roadmap. Several UK regions and Local Authorities have already taken a highly proactive approach to deepening ties with India. With a population of nearly 1.4 billion people, India is predicted to become the world's third largest economy by 2030, providing a spectrum of opportunities for British businesses to enter, expand and invest in the burgeoning market. However, India is a diverse and complex nation made up of 28 states and 8 union territories, and any business proposition would require careful planning, cultural understanding and market intelligence.

There are a wealth of opportunities for businesses in both nations to generate value and innovation

There are a wealth of strategic opportunities for entrepreneurs, businesses and investors in both nations to generate value, innovation and wealth.

Amongst the various sectors and industries with untapped potential, the technology sector provides substantial opportunities for cross-border collaboration, research and development. The pandemic has increased the scale and pace of digitalization of public and private sector services, boosting India's IT enabled services, especially as more consumers are left with little choices but adopt digital technologies, solutions and services such as fintech and medtech, and e-commerce.

This increased global internet connectivity has opened up new and innovative opportunities for trade in services.

Similarly, the shifting global dynamics and supply chain diversification sought by Western businesses, provides fresh opportunities for India to emerge as an alternative global manufacturing

destination for raw materials and products, especially for those businesses seeking to de-risk over reliance on China. In this respect, the Make in India campaign is designed to facilitate investment, enhance skill development, protect Intellectual Property and build manufacturing infrastructure across the country. At the same time, India's new National Education Policy 2020 has been described as a game changer for India's higher education sector. India is home to one-sixth of the world's population and with around 600 million people under the age of 25, the new Policy sets out an ambitious roadmap for liberalising India's higher education sector, with the aim of making India a 'global study destination' and 'global knowledge superpower'.

This will provide many new opportunities for UK and Indian higher education, including institutional partnerships, student mobility, dual degree programmes, transnational education linkages, cutting edge world-class research, development and

industry collaborations. It is widely accepted that education, research and knowledge-intense partnerships between UK and Indian institutions will play a significant role in addressing shared challenges and that universities will play an even greater role in accelerating sustainable economic growth.

Amarjit Singh is the Founder and CEO of the London-based India Business Group. As a leading business advisory consultancy supporting businesses and organisations on market entry and expansion in the UK-India corridor, India Business Group acts as a catalyst for boosting greater flows of business, trade, investment and collaborations between both nations, through the provision of specialist market intelligence, practical frameworks and strategic advisory services. Singh is also Special India Advisor to the University of Southampton, UK. He can be contacted at a.singh@theindiabusinessgroup.com.

Taking a step towards global education

The nature of educational partnerships between India and the UK is fast evolving and OneStep Global offers a performance driven model

OneStep Global is a market entry firm specialised in the higher education sector, helping global universities, colleges, government organisations to land and expand across Asia, through stake holder management and in-country representation.

We have been working with some very prestigious universities and colleges across the world. Our solutions vary from market development to market entry and market presence. We can help clients with strategy development, introductions in the market, stakeholder management, logistics and operations, in-country representation, providing office space and hiring dedicated resources for the client.

How are we different?

Motivation comes from working on

things we care about. It also comes from working with people we care about. With a hunger for growth, a humane approach towards our employees, inclusivity and transparency in operations and a women oriented workforce, our work model supersedes many others. We have a performance driven model, with services ranging from market development to market expansion aimed at providing tangible business results. Our strategic advice is based on experience and each project is designed around the client's unique research needs.

At OneStep Global we believe that our biggest strength is our deep market knowledge that comes from years of experience, strong relationships with key stakeholders, student behaviour



Aritra Ghosal, Founder & Director, OneStep Global

analysis and the connect with on-ground realities. We believe in an open and transparent pricing model and work on actual targets, whether it is international applications, partnerships or enrolments. With minimum obligations and the best talent for our clients we are a specialised market entry firm with our firm commitment in the space of higher education. Many of the world's well-known education institutions entrust us with assisting them in South Asia and we remain dedicated to help them to land and expand in some of the most important markets for student recruitment.

The Global Hospitality and Tourism Forum



The United Kingdom is one of the top study abroad destinations for students from all over the world. It is one of most traveled-to destinations, with the British education system earning a world class reputation. The world comes here, and this makes it an ideal place to study and experience hospitality, travel and tourism, and wellbeing.

India and the United Kingdom have a long history of sharing hospitality, and both our cultures must come together in mutual cooperation to redefine and enhance hospitality.

India - being one of the most spiritual countries in the world - has a wealth of hospitality, where guests are welcomed as God. The United Kingdom, on the other hand, welcomes diversity and is a melting pot of global cultures.

Therefore, there is a great need for the Indian and British hospitality sectors to work more closely together. Our aim is to reach out to over a billion people and renew the experience of hospitality in both countries. With this in view, this year we shall be launching an initiative – The Global Hospitality

and Tourism Forum connecting India and the United Kingdom to enhance the education and employability of students, conduct road shows and offer visa assistance. We hope with this we can strengthen India-UK partnerships. Hospitality and Tourism is our passion,

and we must all strive to be game changers!

Ramesh Arora, CHA, FIH
Managing Director
The Montcalm
London

Want to study sports? Head to Loughborough

From its earliest days in 1909 as one of the UK's foremost technical institutes, Loughborough University has built on its distinctive strengths. Today, it is one of Britain's leading universities, with an international reputation for research and innovation, excellence in education, and unrivalled achievement in sport and the academic disciplines that underpin it.

Loughborough has been rated 'Five Stars Plus' in the global QS Stars university rating scheme and named the best university in the world for sports-related subjects in the QS World University Rankings for six years running.

It is ranked 7th out of the UK's higher education institutions in The Complete University Guide 2023, 10th in the Guardian University League Table 2023 and 11th in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023.

Creating Better Futures – Together

This year the University launched its strategic plan for the next ten years. 'Creating Better Futures. Together' is a bold and ambitious vision to be an internationally engaged research-intensive university that delivers meaningful impact, and supports, inspires and empowers people to achieve extraordinary things.

With aspirations to be a leading global university, internationalisation is at the heart of the new Strategy, with India at the forefront of Loughborough's plans. To support its ambitions, the University has appointed its first ever Special Envoys for India, Dr Kirti Ruikar, Leader for the BSc Architectural Engineering and Design Management degree and Professor Bala Vaidhyanathan, an expert in Advanced Materials and Processing – coordinates the Loughborough-Asia Materials Partnership (LAMP) programme promoting teaching and research links



An aerial shot of the London campus by Jason Hawkes



Dr Kirti Ruikar



Professor Bala Vaidhyanathan

Global partnerships are key

Cricket helmets certified to standards based on Loughborough research have eliminated serious and life-threatening injuries among players; since 2017, cricketers in 104 countries have benefitted from conforming helmets

with India.

"Loughborough's regional strategy for India is crucial to the University's international ambitions. It will enable us to work creatively with leading institutions and businesses right across the country on research, innovation and teaching opportunities, which will bring mutual benefits," said Dr Ruikar. "It's a great opportunity and both Professor Vaidhyanathan and I are excited to be working with Professor Nick Jennings, the University's Vice-Chancellor and President on developing key partnerships."

The allure of Scottish Universities

With breath-taking beauty and a world-renowned education system, Scotland is an enticing destination for international education. Jetal Zala, NISAU's regional head for Scotland, writes on what draws Indian students to Scottish universities

Move over Oxford and Cambridge, the university that tops the charts in the Guardian University Guide 2023 is the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Founded in 1413, the University of St Andrews is Scotland's oldest university with a diverse student community – 9000 from 130 territories world-wide and home to many Indians.

With the ease in immigration restrictions for international students in the UK, Indian students are flocking to study at UK universities for their higher education. Almost 2000 Indians head to Scotland for their studies making Scotland, a preferred destination for Indian students as University of St Andrews, University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, University of Aberdeen and Heriot-Watt university are recognised in top 150 universities across the globe. For international students, a degree in the UK comes with a lot of life experiences. Scottish universities offer a plethora of courses which gives plenty of options to the students. Apart from management and finance, Scotland has its own wealth in

history and literature.

Furthermore, Scotland is a world-leader in wind harvesting energy systems and geographically well placed for tidal energy and hydroelectricity.

The courses offered by the universities here are wide ranging in both the knowledge they provide and the experts on board to broaden one's research interests.

"I'm researching on how colonialism and British rule impacted land use policies in India," says Jil Sheth, who is pursuing a PhD on James Watt scholarship at Heriot-Watt University. Earlier, she had a British Council scholarship to study urban and regional planning at the same university. Sheth is also the President of Heriot Watt India Society. "This university has great career prospects in the construction industry. It is ranked first in Scotland and third in the UK for building courses in the Complete University Guide 2022," she adds. To encourage a greater awareness and collaboration with India, the University of Edinburgh established





the Edinburgh India Institute which had awarded the former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam an honorary doctorate for his outstanding contribution to science and technology. The centre also had speakers like Gopal Krishna Gandhi, a diplomat and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.

Besides this, the beauty of Scotland makes it more attractive to those who are interested in pursuing a career in arts and literature. In comparison to other places in the UK, the cost of living is less and is also affordable to students.

No wonder, Scotland is preferred by the Indian students for their



Professor Moyra Boland, Dean of Global Engagement (South Asia) at the University of Glasgow (left)



higher education studies and to gain experience. The first Indian students at the University of Glasgow arrived in 1870 and the first graduate was Gopal Chandra Roy from Bengal, who qualified as a Doctor in 1871. Today the University is home to more than 1000 Indian students studying across a wide variety of subjects.

“At the government level, both India and the UK have committed to a partnership that delivers for both countries and as universities, we need to ensure that education remains a key focus of this partnership. This includes leveraging the opportunities arising from India’s New Education Policy and working to develop partnerships between UK and Indian HEI’s,” says Professor Moyra Boland, Dean of Global Engagement (South Asia) at the University of Glasgow.

Jetal Zala is an alumnus of The University of St Andrew’s with MSc in Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development. She is currently working at J P Morgan Chase in Edinburgh as an Account Specialist.

University of Glasgow

Our STUDENTS of today are the WORLD CHANGERS of tomorrow

WORLD CHANGING GLASGOW

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Indian universities are a partner of choice for Scottish institutions

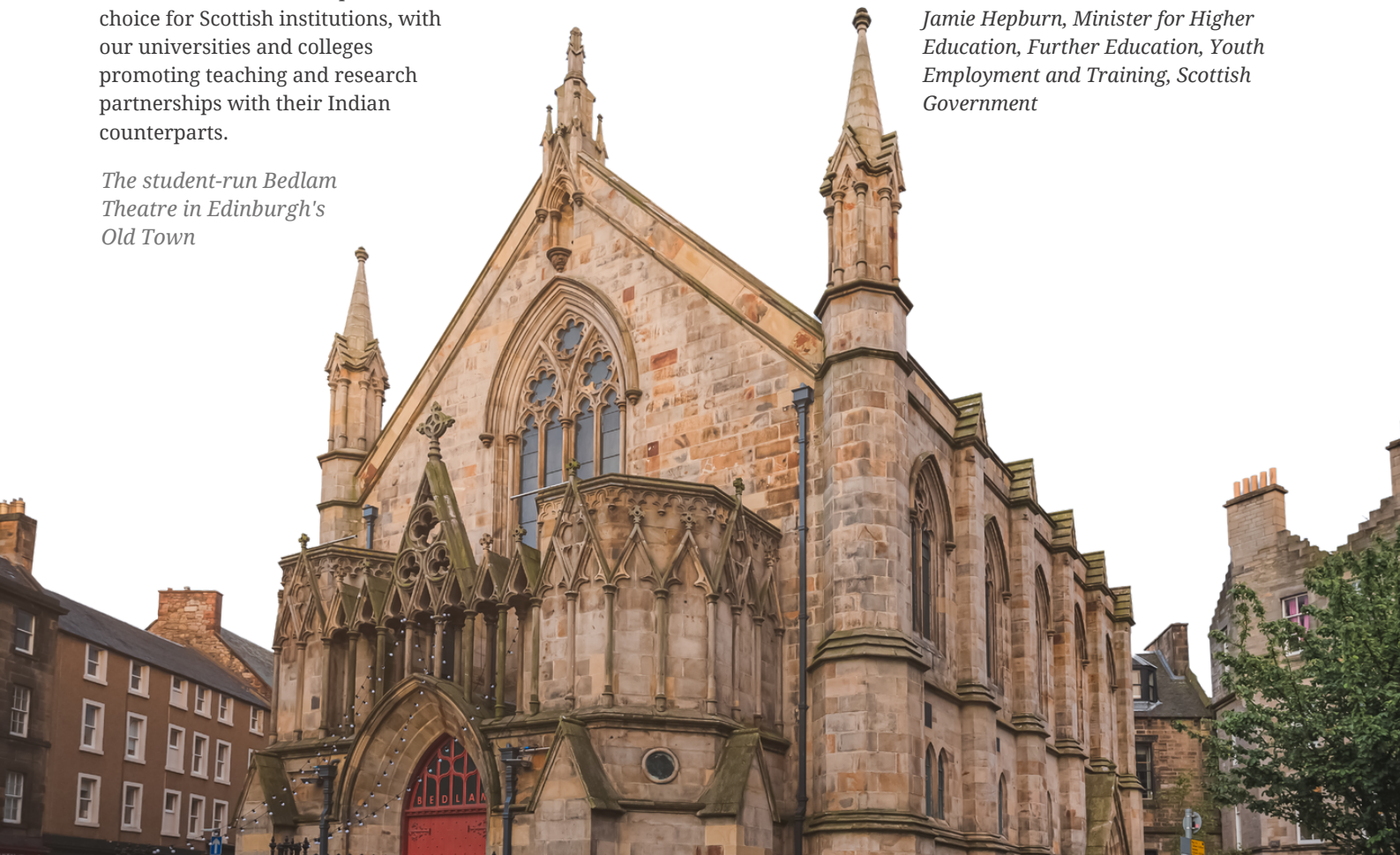
Scotland is an outward looking country with an international focus. We welcome international students and recognise the important and valuable contribution they make to the Scottish economy, our educational environment and Scottish society. The Scottish Government encourages educational exchanges with India, and I am pleased to say that Scotland remains a popular destination for Indian students due to our international reputation for education, teaching and research. In 2020-21, 5,745 students from India studied at universities in Scotland. Indian universities are a partner of choice for Scottish institutions, with our universities and colleges promoting teaching and research partnerships with their Indian counterparts.

The student-run Bedlam Theatre in Edinburgh's Old Town



Since 2020, the Scottish Government has funded the Scotland Asia Partnerships for Higher Education Research. Its aims are to enhance and add value to existing international research partnerships between Scottish universities, research institutes, and partners in Asia. India is one of the key partner countries for this fund. We remain committed to strengthening our relationship with India through our educational partnerships and international engagements, as highlighted in our Global Affairs Framework, and by developing an International Education Strategy.

Jamie Hepburn, Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, Youth Employment and Training, Scottish Government



What distinguishes NISAU is its courage

Senior Advisor Ruth Arnold pens a love letter to the National Indian Students and Alumni Union

Over the past few years, arguably some of the most turbulent for Indian students since Independence as the Covid pandemic shut people behind closed doors and borders, I have had a special privilege.

My friendship with Indian students and alumni, forged through the long struggle for more welcoming policies and post study work opportunities of the last decade, deepened through my ever closer relationship with the National Indian Students and Alumni Union. It may have been born from a common commitment to the value of international education, to equality and a belief in the vital importance of the international student voice, but it quickly grew into something far more powerful: friendship.

In fact, my life has always been blessed by friendship with people who came to the UK from India. As a small girl in Birmingham, a dear family friend Mrs Moti once offered to lend me one of her saris for a special occasion. She arrived at my home with a suitcase and I opened it to reveal a mint green silk embroidered with silver leaves. She taught me to fold it as though I was the daughter she didn't have. Years later at my father's funeral, it was her kind face amongst the mourners that gave me the strength to cope on that bleak and terrible day. And when I made my own first visit to India to meet with Indian alumni in Delhi and Bangalore, I wore the scarf she had given me, still treasured through the years.

Later, I worked for over two decades at UK universities and met many more wonderful Indian students and alumni. Some went on to eminent careers in law, medicine, public service or business, while others stayed in academia contributing to teaching and research. One even matched his career as a nuclear researcher in Sheffield with a side-line in cooking for his



They weren't content only to consume international education, they wanted to shape it and make it better

friends which led him to win the popular British TV show The Great British Bake Off as he delighted the nation with his Indian inspired culinary creativity. But the friends I made at NISAU are particularly special to me because of their determination to reach out to other Indian students and alumni, to ensure they have advice and support when they need it, powerful advocacy and genuine community. In working with NISAU I have met scientists undertaking research into cancers, judges, advocates for equality and a campaigning chef. All led by the force of nature that is founding chair Sanam Arora.

To grasp the smart spirit of NISAU, just attend one of its events. NISAU doesn't politely discuss issues at its debates, it scrutinises and challenges with the vigour and passion born in the world's largest democracy. There is energy as you learn. It's a joy.

But what most distinguishes NISAU is courage. If an Indian student is in real trouble - isolated without work due to a global pandemic or even trapped by an emerging war in Ukraine - it is NISAU who will move heaven and earth to help. If I ever needed to call someone at a moment of crisis, I'd want NISAU's number.

Over the years advising NISAU, I have shared lows and highs. We have gathered in Parliament prepared to challenge policy and watched days later as the UK appointed its first Indian-heritage prime minister on Diwali on the 75th anniversary of Indian independence. The whole world was watching.

And now NISAU has paired up with the British Council and a raft of supportive sponsors to celebrate the achievements of 75 exceptional Indian students and alumni, people who have made a difference in a thousand ways. I'm privileged to be part of the judging

It scrutinises and challenges with the vigour and passion born in the world's largest democracy

panel and excited to see such a diverse and talented group. But mentally I have, like many of us, also got my own personal Indian heroes - the fiercely talented and dedicated volunteers of NISAU UK. Mahatma Gandhi once said, Be the change you want to see in the world. It could be a motto for the National Indian Students and Alumni Union and its volunteers who have made it a powerful model of a new kind of student representation, telling their own story their own way. They weren't content only to consume international education, they wanted to shape it and make it better. They rightly wanted their voices to be heard and their insights valued. I'm excited about what will come next. I believe this is NISAU's moment and I know they won't miss it. The first ten years are only the beginning of the difference they will make and the change they will deliver.

Ruth Arnold is a consultant for the charity and higher education sectors, specialising in executive communications, international education policy and public affairs. Her clients include Imperial College, Royal College of Arts, Nuffield Foundation, U.K. Council of International Student Affairs and Study Group Global. Advisor to the National Indian Students and Alumni Union and to the UK Dyspraxia Foundation. She is a recipient of multiple prestigious awards and honours, including Outstanding Contribution to the Industry at the PIE awards 2020. She was previously director of public affairs for the University of Sheffield. She co-founded and developed the award-winning WeAreInternational campaign promoting greater welcome and positive policies for international students and staff in the UK, retaining a close interest in the development of international education policy in the UK and around the world.



Ruth Arnold is an advisor to the National Indian Students and Alumni Union and to the UK Dyspraxia Foundation



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Small team with a big impact

Vignesh Karthik KR, cofounder of NISAU and Head of Research and Thought Leadership charts the journey of the oldest and multi-award winning Indian student and alumni body in the UK from campaigning for the Graduate Route to helping students during the pandemic and the war in Ukraine

The corridors of the London School of Economics in the fall of 2012 saw a rather enthusiastic group of international students from universities across the UK meet to forge a collective. The agenda at that time was straightforward - we wanted to work towards the reinstatement of the post study work visa that gave opportunity to international students to work in the UK after their studies, and call for a concerted action against bogus colleges and bogus agents that were deceiving Indian students. The changing demographic of students coming to the UK was a key element. Many students coming to the UK were from middle income families in India, many with sizable loans. Someone needed to help them and so National Indian Students Union [NISU] was born.

Over the decade NISU steadily evolved to become National Indian Students and Alumni Union [NISAU]. Today, we are the oldest and largest multi-award winning Indian student and alumni body in the UK, and a key interest group in the Higher Education sector. We have both individual students and



Above
Some of the NISAU members team at its 10th year celebrations, graced by the presence of actor Shabana Azmi

Left
Vignesh Karthik KR



After years of campaigning, the Graduate Route was reinstated in July 2021

NISAU volunteer Sameer Dhore delivering food packets to Indian students struggling financially during the Covid-19 lockdown in London.



student societies as members. At the same time, we also have enabled creation of Indian students' societies in quite a few colleges. Over the years, we have added more and more eminent luminaries to our list of patrons and have engaged with a range of events by thought leaders thereby fostering the living bridge i.e., the India-UK relations. After years of campaigning alongside stalwarts like Lord Karan Bilimoria CBE and Lord Jo Johnson, the Graduate Route or the post study work visa was reinstated in July 2021. The year and a half leading up to July 2021 was a period marked by multifarious tribulations owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. We put together a dedicated team. We have over 75 WhatsApp groups, active pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and a responsive email to coordinate easily with students. We started our engagements with the community based on the Covid-19 news cycles. We began collecting the data of all Indian students who were in the country, and around the same time the High Commission also asked us to help them with a similar form they had issued. We were handling over 100 queries a day following the cancellation of flights. We put up periodic advisories and information with regards to the flights and the rules in place. The nature of queries ranged from landlord eviction issues to non-availability of food to dealing with unresponsive universities. We liaised with charities, universities and Higher Education collectives to resolve issues systematically. While fighting fake news on one hand with factual and relevant advisories,

on the other hand we looked after the wellbeing of the students by organising Netflix parties, zumba classes, stand-up comedy sessions, career counseling workshops and other small events that helped the students take their mind off the situation. When flight restrictions were relaxed, we worked with the Indian High Commission on the Vande Bharat repatriation mission. We campaigned to get India removed from the red list to enable a smoother travel. In India, through our volunteer network, we were able to provide 45000 meals to disadvantaged children and stranded migrants in the state of Tamil Nadu and delivered 1500 two-week grocery kits for poor families. The start of the year saw Indian students caught in the middle of an armed aggression by Russia on Ukraine. We immediately responded to the emergency by simultaneously engaging with the students, their families, Government of India representatives, State governments representatives in India, diplomats and civil society organisations. The deft coordination that NISAU undertook helped passage of around 5000 Indians to safe regions around Ukraine. The Graduate Route came into force in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, a ray of sunshine in those bleak times. Higher Education has been one of the strongest exports for the UK, currently generating £26 billion in export revenues. The UK higher education strategy target is to take it up to £35 billion by 2030. As of June 2022, India has overtaken China to be the country to send the highest number of

students (117,965) and largest workforce (102,981) to the UK. Furthermore, a report by the RedSeer strategy consultants pegs that around 1.8 million (up from 1.09 million) Indian students will be spending around £75 billion by 2024 on international higher education across the world. Higher number of aspirational students from tier 2 and tier 3 cities are seeking to pursue international higher education. In this context, we believe that the current situation is an inflection point to tap into the underutilised resource i.e., Indian students pursuing education in the UK, in a bid to promote closer relations between the India and UK that would substantially benefit both nations.

Vignesh Karthik KR is a doctoral researcher at the King's India Institute in political science, sociology, and business studies, with professional experience in public policy, legislative research and political consulting of over 5 years. He has consulted for a leading national opposition party in India in five provincial elections in 2017 and 2018 and helped draft their manifesto in the 2019 General Elections. He also devised the strategy and development blueprints for two regional parties in three states in the 2021 and 2022 provincial elections in India. He co-founded NISAU in 2012 and is the head of Research and Thought Leadership, wherein he works on providing recommendations for the Higher Education policy of the United Kingdom vis-a-vis international students.

The best of NISAU

NISAU hosts several prominent personalities every year. Some voices that have won over the masses

Hon'ble Justice DY Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India

Speaking at the launch of LSE and NISAU's "India at 75" series of activities

"The Constitution is a transformative document" in which the judiciary and legislature recognize various conceptions of these rights, and that is the language in which political and social issues are generally framed. People with different socio-political views use this language to advocate their rights. In the Indian context, affirmative action is debated on facets of the right to equality. "Law is an aspiration for change", and the answers one gets are based on how you frame the discourse.



Vidya Balan, Actress
Speaking to NISAU

"You're constantly being given different signals by different people telling you who you should be. The best lesson I learnt is to just be who I am, unapologetically. Because I could not satisfy everyone's idea of who I should be."



Shabana Azmi, Veteran Indian Actress and Former Member of Indian Parliament
Speaking at NISAU's "Breaking the Bias" series

"I grew up in a family that believes that art should be used as an instrument for social change...Art has the power to create a climate of sensitivity in which it is possible for change to occur."



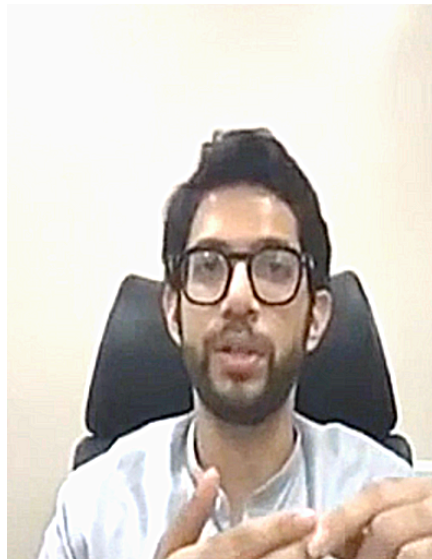
Rahul Gandhi
Former President of the Indian National Congress and Member of Indian Parliament
Speaking at the launch of NISAU's annual India Townhall "Perspective" at the LSE in 2018

"India is 1.3 billion different perspectives, every Indian person has a particular view. I want to listen to all of them."



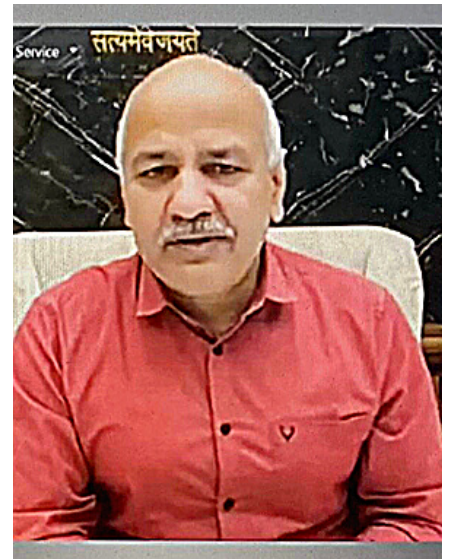
Indira Banerjee
Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India
Speaking at NISAU’s “Breaking the Bias” series

“Indian Constitution is a gender-friendly constitution. The preamble to the constitution summarises the aims and objectives of the constitution and promises to secure all its citizen men and women including justice, social, economic, and political, and liberty of thoughts, expression, and belief. Article 15 of the Indian constitution expressly prohibits discrimination on the grounds of gender. Similarly, article 15(3) of the Indian constitution empowers the state to make special provisions for women and children including girl child.”



Aaditya Thackeray
Former Minister, Environment & Climate change, Government of Maharashtra
Speaking at NISAU – King’s Business School India Series

“We speak about the next 50 years, we speak about the next 10 years, we speak about the last decade. And one thing this pandemic has taught me is that we don't have 50 years, we don't have a decade. Climate change is happening around us today. Do we really need to generate the amount of waste that we're generating today? If we're picking up a sandwich to work or if we're picking up something from a shop nearby, do we really need a shopping bag?”



Manish Sisodia
Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister of Delhi
Speaking at NISAU – King’s Business School India Series

“Can we use education for peace? Can we use it to end terrorism and violence? For protection of the environment with some guarantee? I want to bring this discourse to education’s accountability – accountability of the whole educational system, which starts with the executive leadership. We have to define the kind of world we want to give our children and communicate this vision to our teachers...provide executable policies and platforms and use education to solve global and social issues.”



Priyanka Chaturvedi
Member of Parliament, India
Speaking at NISAU’s Annual India Townhall “Perspective”

“I would encourage a lot many women to look at politics as a part of their inclusion in policymaking spaces...I encourage them to come forward. The next decade belongs to the women... however political parties are failing to give them representation. I just want to say to women - fight a battle of your convictions...fight for your space. You are not here to be a footnote in history, you are here to make history.”



Akshay Kumar
Speaking at a NISAU event

“[Through films, change can be facilitated]...if I can help spread awareness of issues through films, you talk and impact five people, those five impact another 15...that’s how we will create a ripple effect.”



Dr Raghuram Rajan, Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
Speaking at the NISAU – King’s India Institute

“We had notable successes even in the last decade of relatively slow growth. For example, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The interface facilitates inter-bank peer-to-peer and person-to-merchant transactions. It is used on mobile devices to instantly transfer funds between two bank accounts. This has helped to promote digitalisation and inclusion in the economy. Further, we do need to improve our laws which protect privacy and data collection made by the government of India. Also, we need privacy laws that limit the role of the government by keeping a system of checks and balances.”



Geeta Luthra
Senior Advocate Supreme Court of India
Speaking at the NISAU’s “Breaking the Bias” series

“The very fact that after so many years of Indian independence there is only a total of eight women Judges in the Honourable Supreme Court of India invites an introspection for gender equality. The level of empowerment is high but how many women are actually empowered is unfortunately low. For example, in the UK, USA, and India as well, the number of Members of Parliament in the upper house and the lower house is certainly low.”



Kanhaiya Kumar
Member of Indian National Congress
Speaking at the NISAU’s Annual India Townhall “Perspective”

“We had notable successes even in the last decade of relatively slow growth. For example, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The interface facilitates inter-bank peer-to-peer and person-to-merchant transactions. It is used on mobile devices to instantly transfer funds between two bank accounts. This has helped to promote digitalisation and inclusion in the economy. Further, we do need to improve our laws which protect privacy and data collection made by the government of India. Also, we need privacy laws that limit the role of the government by keeping a system of checks and balances.”



Swami Ramdev
Speaking at NISAU’s UK India Youth Conclave

“Yoga, spirituality and Ayurveda are India’s biggest contribution to the world for the welfare of mankind. Good health is our birth right and it is free for all. And, yoga is so easy that anyone can get into it... The truth is that to be a good leader, you have to have passion. For a good organisation to work, you have to have a leader who has the quality to be in charge. I can see NISAU is working so well because of its leadership.”

From the NISAU gallery

NISAU team with Smriti Irani, currently the Union Minister of Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs in India in 2017



Above
NISAU at the Pravasi Bharat Divas in 2016 with then Minister of External Affairs (MEA), the late Sushma Swaraj and Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who is the current MEA.

Bollywood's Parineeti Chopra and Arjun Kapoor meeting NISAU's Sanam Arora and Vijaya Priyadarshini for a chat on films and young people in London in 2018



Below
Sanam Arora of NISAU with then UK Home Secretary Priti Patel at 10 Downing Street in 2017



Akshay Kumar, Bollywood superstar enjoying a tete-a-tete with some NISAU members in London in 2017



Jyotiraditya Scindia, currently the Union Minister of Civil Aviation at the LSE Forum 2018



Dr. Raghuram Rajan, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India at NISAU Perspective 2018, Kings College London

THE TEAM BEHIND



I'm Mohanish, the President of the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK. I have helped conceptualise initiatives like the India UK Achievers Honours, the India Series, the Perspective initiative, the Ideas for India dialogue, the India-UK Youth Awards etc. As a representative voice of Indian students abroad, I have been involved in providing holistic support to thousands of students during the Covid-19 pandemic, for the Vande Bharat evacuation drive by the Indian Government. An alumnus of the University of Edinburgh and SPRU UK, I have represented India at prestigious international forums like Asian Science Camp (Republic of Korea), Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates (Germany) and Khorana Program (USA) as a Fellow of the Government of India. An award-winning science communicator, I have professionally worked with the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and Invest India in driving science communication around the PM-STIAC missions, STI Policy, S&T Clusters etc.

Mohanish Borana, The University of Edinburgh and SPRU, University of Sussex; President



I am Vijaya. I am a cancer researcher at the Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden NHS Trust. I graduated as a Dental surgeon from Utkal University followed by my first Masters from University of Birmingham. My current role focusing on cancer trials is a natural career progression from my second masters at the Barts Cancer, Queen Mary University of London. My research project focused on elucidating the role of NOX proteins in MMR-deficient Endometrial Cancer provided me with key skills in molecular biology, drug development, clinical trial phases and operations. My journey with NISAU goes back to 2016, now I am NISAU's Vice President and Head of Events. We have the privilege of hosting some of India's foremost thought leaders and to work on something as magnificent as the India-UK Achievers Honours. I have helped conceptualise, implement and manage the process and delivery of the campaign aimed at identifying India's 75 at 75.

Dr Vijaya Priyadarshini, Queen Mary University of London; Vice President and Head of Events



I am Aish, a post-doctoral researcher in imaging chemistry for cell tracking at King's College London. I graduated from University of Mumbai in chemistry and followed it with a PhD at CDT in Medical Imaging based at King's College London and Imperial College London. My research interests include radiochemistry, cancer nanomedicines, and non-invasive brain drug delivery. In the wider scientific community, I have held key team positions in the European Society of Molecular Imaging (ESMI) and Controlled Release Society (CRS). I have a keen interest in public engagement. I joined NISAU as a volunteer in 2018. Now, in my capacity as a general secretary and director, I have helped organise various student-centric events and hosted various key political and social stakeholders around the world. The NISAU achievers showcase campaign has been a mammoth challenge and I have personally overseen and implemented the application and selection process.

Aishwarya Mishra, King's College London; General Secretary



Sameer Somnath Dhore, University of Greenwich; Head of Student Outreach

Hi! I'm Sam, an alumnus of the University of Greenwich. I joined NISAU three years ago and my motivations for getting involved with it were dual: volunteering for the cause of international students and building my network of like-minded people. I lead our Student and Society support activities and have had the privilege recently of being at the forefront of our disaster response activities, supporting thousands of Indian students stuck in the Ukraine-Russia war and those severely impacted as a result of the devastation caused by the Covid pandemic. These events have reinforced our fundamental belief in the importance of having a platform like the NISAU which is truly a "Home away from Home" for Indian students in the UK. I lead the Due Diligence and Compliance department of a multi-billion MNC headquartered in the UK, where part of my role is to act as a bridge between my firm and the HMRC.

ACHIEVERS HONOURS



Hi, I'm Prachi. I am an integrated marketing and communication professional, passionate about changing narratives for greater social impact. Presently, I am working with an advertising firm, strategising fundraising campaigns for global non-for-profit organisations and working on marketing campaigns for electric vehicle companies.

NISAU, for me, is more than a student and alumni union as it taught me going the extra mile for the right causes. From campaigning for the rights of international students to building a community of like-minded people, it has ushered the passion within me for bringing Indian students' stories into global conversations. We have worked tirelessly for India UK Achievers Honours, which not only brings Indian students' stories into the spotlight but also serves as a testament to the success of India-UK bilateral global education relationship.

*Prachi Dang, King's College London;
Head of Communications*



I'm Jyoti, a PhD researcher at the Centre for doctoral training in smart imaging (SMI-CDT) at King's College London where I am working on developing advanced high-resolution techniques for using brain MRI. Before coming to London, I obtained a bachelor's and master's degree in physics from Delhi University and IIT-Delhi respectively. My PhD journey started in 2019 and soon after that I joined NISAU as a national officer. I assisted NISAU during 2020 and 2021 in various aspects of their Covid-19 response in both India and the UK. Eventually becoming the Co-Head of Research and Events, I lead a dedicated team of volunteers for different engagement campaigns run by NISAU. I have been involved in the NISAU Achievers Showcase campaign since its inception. I have played key roles in the research and marketing efforts that have been required to reach out to the very large community of Indians who have studied in the UK.

Jyoti Mangal, King's College London; Co-Head of Research and Thought Leadership



I am Shanthni Mahalingam, the Project Manager for NISAU's Achievers Honours programme. This project has opened an entire new universe for me in terms of learning about the Educational sector. I also run an online learning centre called the 'Children's English Club'. I have taught over 300 students over the past 8 years. I have donned various hats from being a Business manager, Event planner, Improviser, Teacher, to now being Project Manager. I strongly believe that education is the only way to eradicate inequality in the world and it is everyone's basic right. However, education is not just about exams, assignments, and employment; It is also about the impact it has on the individual and the community. That is exactly why I resonate with NISAU's values of 'Enabling, Engaging, and Empowering'. NISAU enables, engages, and empowers students and is not just an organisation but a support system and home. I'm glad that it has become my home.

*Shanthni Mahalingam, Project Manager
- India UK Achievers Honours*



*CA Manan Jagnani,
Queen Mary University
of London; Head of
Policy-Making*

I'm Manan and have completed my Masters in Law from Queen Mary University of London. By profession, I am a chartered accountant & a lawyer from India and am currently working with one of the Big 4's in their Business Consulting Risk team. The 'Make in India' campaign by the Government of India prompted me to pursue an international qualification as I felt that due to this campaign, there will be a massive need for skilled professionals especially those who are internationally qualified from world class universities. I always believed that education is one of the key pillars to bring a massive change in this world. Therefore, with a keen interest in volunteering and giving back to society, I joined NISAU to serve the international student community. I have actively assisted and have been involved in various activities of NISAU over the past few years.



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