

## Profiles of Speakers

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### **Neil Gray, MSP Minister for Culture, Europe, and International Development**

Rt.Hon. Minister Neil Gray MSP, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development

Neil Gray was appointed Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development in January 2022. Neil Gray was born and brought up in Orkney and was educated at Kirkwall Grammar School. He graduated from the University of Stirling in 2008 with a first-class Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in politics and journalism.

He was elected to represent Airdrie and Shotts Constituency at the 2021 Scottish Parliament election.

He had previously won the Airdrie and Shotts Westminster seat in 2015 and held it on two subsequent occasions before resigning to stand for the same area in the 2021 Scottish Parliament election. Prior to becoming an MP, Mr Gray worked for former Scottish Government Health Secretary Alex Neil MSP as his Airdrie and Shotts constituency office manager.



### **Alan Gemmell OBE, British Deputy High Commissioner for Western India, and HM Trade Commissioner for South Asia**

Alan Gemmell is His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for South Asia and the British Deputy High Commissioner for Western India. He was appointed in June 2020.

Prior to his appointment, Alan was Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council where he promoted intra-Commonwealth trade working with leading British businesses including HSBC, JCB, Rolls Royce, Standard Chartered, as well as the City of London, the UK government, and a number of governments of Commonwealth countries. Alan was part of a 2019 Commonwealth mission to assess the successful application of the government of Maldives to re-join the Commonwealth.



### **Peter Cook, British Deputy High Commissioner Ahmedabad**

Peter Cook took up his appointment in Ahmedabad as the British Deputy High Commissioner to Gujarat and Rajasthan on 14th January 2019.

Peter Cook comes back to India after 50 years, having been born in Kolkata in 1963. He grew up and lived there until he was 7, before returning to UK with his parents. He comes to India most recently from serving as the Managing Director of the British Chamber of Commerce in Qatar. He has enjoyed a long and varied career with the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) having served as Consul General and Director of Trade in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. He was earlier Deputy Consul General Istanbul and Deputy Director of Trade and Investment in Turkey. He has served also in Denmark, Barbados, Qatar, Guyana and the UK Mission to the UN in New York.



**Dr Anant Chakradeo, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dean and Director MIT-ADT university**

Dr. Anant joined MIT in 1994 as a junior lecturer in the Production Engineering Department. Today, he adorns multiple hats, as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the MIT Art Design and Technology University, the Dean of faculty of MIT Institute of Design, and the Director of International Relations. With a desire to be faculty and contribute to nation-building, he set out to face new challenges and became instrumental in bringing the latest technology to the institute. Dr Anant is known for his love for learning and research. His contributions have given him a place in a number of councils and associations including the Fulbright Fellowship, Academic Council at MITADT University, the Governing Council at MITAOE in Alandi, the Governing Council at Avantika University, the Association of Designers of India (ADI), CII National Committee of Design, Board of Studies, Chandigarh University and is a Life member at MAEER.



**Dr Vidya Yeravdekar, Pro Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed University) & Principal Director, Symbiosis**

Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar is the Principal Director of Symbiosis Society, and Pro Chancellor of Symbiosis International University. Symbiosis International University is a multi-disciplinary, multinational, multi-cultural University having more than 45000 students from all States of India and international students from 85 countries. The Symbiosis Society not only has under its ambit the Symbiosis International University but also has K12 Schools, College of Arts and Commerce and Museums- the Afro Asian Cultural Museum and the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Museum & Memorial. Dr. Vidya holds a Post Graduate Degree in Medicine, a Degree in Law and Ph.D. in 'Internationalisation of Higher Education in India'. Having presented papers at various National & International Conferences, she has numerous research publications to her credit and has also authored several books. Ranked No.14 amongst India's top 25 Powerful Women, Dr. Vidya has been instrumental in bringing in innovative approaches to promote internationalisation of higher education in India.



**Dr Satyendra K Upadhyay, Director International Relations, Somaiya Vidyavihar University**

Dr. Satyendra is General Management faculty with two Ph.D. (from India and China) and MBA in Marketing from Mumbai University. He has more than 18 years of industry experience in India and Abroad. His research interest lies in International Relations, internationalisation of education, India-China Relations, BRICS and Affiliate Marketing. Since 2007, he has been visiting professor to various management institutes in Mumbai and University of Mumbai (2016-20). He has joined as Assistant Professor (Sr. Scale) in K.J. Somaiya Institute of Management in March 2018. He teaches General Management Course, International Relations and Diplomacy and Mandarin to MBA students. Since 2019, he is Chairperson for Funded Research Projects and institute coordinator for Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC).



**Dr Shalini Bharat, Director and Vice Chancellor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences**

She has nearly four decades of experience in teaching, research, capacity building, advocacy, and field action in broad areas of social science and health, social development, family studies and minority community demographics. She is known for her work on equity and access issues with special reference to reproductive and women's health; social determinants of HIV and TB, including stigma, discrimination, and human rights issues; multi-purpose prevention technologies for HIV epidemic; self-testing for HIV prevention; young people's health and wellbeing; family studies and child adoption; women, work and family; and demography of the Indian Parsi community. With her wide experience in community-based research using qualitative and mixed methodology research approaches, she has contributed to a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the social and gender dimensions of a range of issues concerning health, development and wellbeing of women, youth and vulnerable populations such as, people living with HIV, transgender people and homosexual men, and female sex workers.



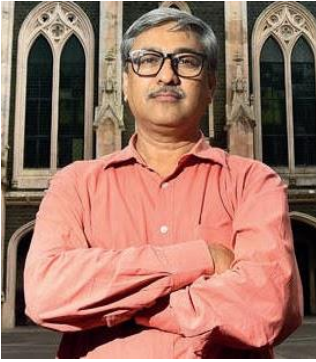
**Prof. Jayashree Shinde, Head Department of Educational training, SNDT Women's University**

Professor (Dr.) Jayashree Shinde is heading Department of Educational Technology, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai. She is also Director of Teaching Learning Centre established under 'Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission for Teachers and Teaching', Ministry of Education, GoI. She has been working in the department since last 27 years. Areas of her expertise are Educational Technology, eLearning, Instructional Design, ODL systems, OER development, ICT-based training, interactive material development, constructivist pedagogies, innovative assessments, etc. She is currently on three National Level committees related to NEP Implementation: Blended Learning, Innovative Pedagogy and National Focus Group of School Education for Educational Technology.



**Prof. Avinash M Mahajan, Dean Academic Programmes, IIT Bombay**

Prof. Avinash V. Mahajan is a Professor in the Department of Physics at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, and he took charge as the Dean (Academic Programme) in July 2021. He completed his B. Tech in 1986 from IIT Bombay and has completed his PhD in Solid state Physics in 1991 from Iowa State University, USA



### **Dr Rajendra Shinde, Principal, St Xavier's College**

Rajendra Shinde took over as the principal of the Mumbai-based autonomous higher education institution, St Xavier's College in 2018. The professor of botany has been associated with St Xavier's College both as a student and a faculty member, spending over 38 years with the esteemed institute.



### **Meena Saxena, Director International Linkages, NMIMS**

Meena Saxena is a senior management education professional with over 3 decades of experience. She is currently Director of International Linkages, NMIMS Deemed to be University. In this capacity, Meena provides leadership to assist NMIMS University in becoming a dynamic global campus in terms of teaching, research agenda and strategic engagements. Previously, Meena worked for more than nine years with the Indian School of Business, having been part of Centres for Teaching, Learning, and Case Development (CTLC), the Center for Leadership Innovation & Change, and the Faculty & Research & Alumni Relationships departments. Under Meena's leadership, CTLC wrote and published over 150 case studies on Indian business practices, trained over 250 faculty members through case workshops, and hosted the ISB IVEY Global case competition. These cases have been published by two leading Global Publishing Houses - Harvard Business Publishing & Ivey Publishing.



### **K C College (Prof. Indu Shahani) To be confirmed**

Dr Indu Shahani has been acknowledged as a visionary thought leader for her significant contribution to education and value-based leadership. Dr Shahani has over four decades of experience and has been the Principal of H R College, University of Mumbai (2000-2016) which is the highest NAAC accredited single faculty college till date (3.72/4). She has also been the member of University Grants Commission (2011 -2014). For her exceptional service to the field of education, Dr Shahani was Sheriff of Mumbai for two successful terms 2008 & 2009.

Dr Shahani was the first Indian to be appointed Vice-Chair on the Board of Governors of the International Baccalaureate and has over a decade of experience with the IB worldwide. She has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) degree by the University of Westminster, London. Dr Shahani has been visiting faculty at UC Berkeley, NYU Stern, USA and she has been a Lead Speaker at various conferences in India and abroad. She has also developed many international linkages for students and faculty with leading universities in USA, UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore and South Africa.





**Prof. Minal Pathak, Senior Scientist, Global Centre for Environment and energy, Ahmedabad University**

Minal Pathak is currently a Senior Scientist of Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Working Group III covers the mitigation of climate change, i.e., methods for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and enhancing atmospheric sinks. The Working Group III Technical Support Unit is based at the Global Centre for Environment and Energy at Ahmedabad University and Centre for Environmental Policy. Working Group III is responsible for the one of the three main IPCC reports due in 2021

From 2016-17, she was Associate Professor and Head of the Doctoral Program at CEPT University, Ahmedabad, and Assistant Professor at CEPT University from 2011-2016. She was a drafting author on the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land. Her publications focus on low carbon scenarios for India, demand-side mitigation actions and their interlinkages with SDGs.

Professor Pathak holds a PhD and MS in Environmental Science. She is a Visiting Researcher at Imperial College London and has held visiting scholar positions at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru.

**Geeny Shaju, Acting Deputy Director, UKRI**

Geeny George Shaju is currently the Acting Deputy Director at UK Research Innovation India (UKRI). She is responsible for managing and implementing communications strategy and also manages the UK-India programmes in the area of social science and humanities for RCUK India.

Her special interests are in social science and arts and humanities. Geeny has developed several skills and competencies and includes a range of contacts and stakeholders in various Indian government agencies, foreign missions, and the media.



**Sabarinath Vijayakumar, Country Director India, Heriot-Watt University**

Sabarinath Vijayakumar has over thirteen years of experience working at various roles in International Student Recruitment and Business development at a UK Higher Education Institution operating in South Asia with lead responsibility in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Mauritius.

His competencies are in Market research & Intelligence, planning and implementing marketing strategies, Digital marketing, budgeting and efficient spending, student recruitment, partnerships with academic institutions running success TNE models, new product development, market penetration and identifying student/customer needs.



**Moyra Boland, Dean for Global engagement Central and SA, Glasgow University**

Moyra Boland is a former Deputy Head of the School of Education, responsible for the strategic leadership of the school, deputising for the Head of School, for all the undergraduate provision and the development of international renowned teacher education programmes, community education programmes, leadership and management programmes for teacher and early years programmes.

Her current role is Dean for Global Engagement in Central and South Asia, she is responsible for establish priorities and facilitate decisions that will enhance and support strategic internationalisation initiatives. Supporting and promoting academic

business development including the delivery of education, collaborative research, knowledge transfer activities, student experience and recruitment.



**Prof William Austin, Head of schools for Sustainable Development, University of St. Andrews**

Professor William (Bill) Austin (University of St Andrews) held research fellowships from the Royal Society of London, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the UK Natural Environment Research Council before moving to St Andrews, where he became the founding Head of School for Sustainable Development. Professor Austin sits on the University of St Andrews India Board and provides support to the University in matters of UK-India academic partnership building. Visits to India have also included one-to-one meetings with prospective students (and their families) and social meetings with the University's rapidly growing network of alumni in India.

Professor Austin has mentored and hosted visiting research scholars, including early career researchers, at St Andrews through the British Council's Newton Bhabha and the UKRI GCRF schemes. Professor Austin leads two current projects with colleagues

at Ahmedabad University, including live funding from the Royal Society of Edinburgh SAPHIRE programme and the British Council's Links Workshop. These research efforts focus on Blue Carbon and Nature-based Solutions for Climate, People and Biodiversity – which have drawn much media interest. In June 2022, Professor Austin was appointed to lead the new United Nations Decade Programme for Blue Carbon in the Global Ocean (GO-BC).



### **Vir Singh Anand, Director India, University of St. Andrews**

Having graduated with an MA (hons) in Management from the University of St Andrews (2012-2016), Mr Singh briefly worked in London for an analytics and insight firm before heading back to Scotland to join the St Andrews Admissions office. As the need to have a more nuanced strategy in India grew, he came on board as an India specialist based in India and have been a consultant to the university since.

He now represents the university as the Director of the region at India office. He is also the main contact for the India Alumni network. He recently joined London based Media firm, GBMAG as a Member of the Board of Advisors and a specialist for networking and strategy aiming to increase business in the Indian Market. He also happen to be a member of educational committees in the region with focus on the higher education in the UK.



### **Amrita Sadarangani Honorary Fellow, School Of Biological Sciences Executive Director – Gujarat Biotechnology University Project University Of Edinburgh**

Amrita is an experienced leader, problem solver, facilitator, and dot connector in the field of international research and higher education.

As Executive Director to the Gujarat Biotechnology University (GBU) project, Amrita is responsible for delivering a deep international partnership with the University of Edinburgh that contributes a number of academic services and mentorship across curricula, faculty development, teaching support, development of research, mobility, and overall advisory to create a thematic postgraduate university with a unique culture, placing GBU on world class track. Amrita is also responsible for operationalising the new university located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Previous to this, Ms. Sadarangani led the South Asia Regional centre for the University of Edinburgh in Mumbai for 11 years, which she set up in 2010 as an India Office. In this role Amrita led and supported the India / South Asia strategy, scoped, and delivered opportunities for joint research, student mobility and engaged the University's alumni across India and Sri Lanka. From 2000 to 2009, Amrita held a variety of roles across PR, Marketing and International Relations at Ogilvy Public Relations, British Deputy High Commission Bangalore and Mumbai, and GlaxoSmithKline Pharma in Mumbai. Amrita has an MSc in Biochemistry from Maharaja Sayajirao University Baroda and two years research experience in cancer biology at the Cancer Research Institute, Tata Memorial Centre Mumbai.



### **Dr Athulya Aravind, Regional Director South Asia, University of Edinburgh**

Dr Arvind is a trained scientist in Bio-Nanotechnology with a passion for managing International education and research partnerships. She possesses 9 plus years' professional experience in India higher education sector, managing academic partnerships for Japanese and UK institutions in India. Currently, she is responsible for coordinating and advancing strategic partnerships and developmental engagements for University of Edinburgh across the South Asia region. Previously she has held international research partnership management roles at IIT Delhi and NCBS and in-country partnership management role for King's College London.



**Julie Edgar, Dean of Schools of Computer engineering and Physical Sciences, University of the West of Scotland**

Prof Edgar is a former Forensic Scientist and Crime Scene Investigator with over 15 years professional experience and currently Dean of the School of Science & Sport with over 16 years' experience in Higher Education



**Prof Hari Hundal, Academic Regional Lead South Asia, University of Dundee**

Professor Hari Hundal has been appointed as Academic Regional Lead (ARL) for South Asia. International recruitment is a key strategic priority for the University, and Professor Hundal's personal knowledge of the region and his dedication to the student experience make him an excellent appointee. Professor Hundal is also acting as Race Equality Charter (REC) Lead and has completed a significant amount of work in this area. He will continue to progress in this role.



**Dr Brad Mackay, Vice Principal, International Strategy and External Relations, University of St Andrews**

The current Vice-Principal (International Strategy and External Relations) and Senior Vice-Principal is Brad MacKay. He has held this role since 2017. Brad MacKay is Professor of Strategy in the University of St Andrews School of Management. Professor MacKay also held an ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) Senior Fellowship in the Future of the UK and Scotland program (2013 to 2014). He earned a BA in International Development Studies from Dalhousie University, in Halifax, Canada, an MLitt (with Distinction) in Management, Economics and Politics (MEP) and a PhD in Strategy from the University of St Andrews, Scotland. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).



**Apala Majumdar, Professor of Applied Mathematics, University of Strathclyde**

Apala Majumdar is a Full Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Strathclyde. She received her PhD in applied mathematics from the University of Bristol in 2006, where she was also a CASE student with Hewlett Packard laboratories. She worked in Oxford as a research fellow, was appointed as a faculty member at the University of Bath in 2012 and moved to Strathclyde in 2019. Apala's research programme is strongly interdisciplinary and her scientific achievements and service to the community have been recognised by several national prizes - a London Mathematical Society Anne Bennett Prize in 2015, two prizes from the British Liquid Crystal Society in 2012 and 2020 respectively, an Academic Leader award from the FDM Everywoman in Technology awards and a Suffrage Science Award for inspirational women in STEM in 2020. Apala has worked extensively with researchers around the world - UK, Europe, India, China North and South America, and has recently been appointed Associate Dean for International Research for the Faculty of Science at the University of Strathclyde.





### **Dr Anita Patankar, Director - Symbiosis University, Pune**

Dr Anita Patankar is the Director at Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts and Deputy Director at Symbiosis Centre for International Education. Dr. Anita Patankar has been the director at SSLA since its inception in 2011. She headed India's first liberal arts program at Symbiosis Centre for Liberal Arts. An alumnus of Ra Podar College of Commerce, Mumbai, she is the only Indian representative and founder member on the alliance of Asian Liberal Arts Universities.



### **Geoff Pope, Asia Team Leader, Scottish Government International Division**

Geoff is the Asia team leader in the International Relations team at the Scottish Government, where building strong bilateral and people-to-people links with India is a key focus. Prior to working in International Relations, Geoff's work has largely related to the third sector and social enterprise, most recently as team leader of the Organisational Support Team within Third Sector Division in the Scottish Government, which included responsibilities for the development of social enterprises in Scotland. This included writing the Enterprising Third Sector Action Plan (2008) and developing the support structure for the sector in Scotland.

Before joining the civil service, Geoff previously worked in the voluntary sector. Between 1994 and 2003 he worked for Amnesty International Scotland. Geoff has also worked for Crusaid Scotland and Oxfam. In his spare time Geoff tries to spend as much time outdoors, including hill walking, cycling and kayaking.

### **Alison Barrett MBE, Director India**



Alison Barrett MBE leads the India operations of the British Council across our work in English, Education and Arts. She is committed to strengthening the educational and cultural exchange between India and the UK by building connections, understanding and trust.

Alison has worked for the British Council for over 25 years in a variety of roles in our Teaching, Examinations and Cultural Engagement units supporting the building of connections between the UK and our network overseas. Most of her career has been spent in the Asia-Pacific region, with posts based in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, UAE and Thailand. Prior to joining the British Council, she worked as a teacher in Nepal, Japan and South Korea.

Alison is particularly interested in higher and basic education and English. She holds an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language from the Institute of Education, University of London and in 2014, Alison was awarded an MBE for services to the teaching and learning of English in India.

### **Rashi Jain, Director West India, and Business Development Lead India**



Rashi Jain leads on the education and cultural relations work, that connects young Indians with UK ideas, knowledge, and networks. She also works closely with the British High Commission networks to support the delivery of India-UK Roadmap 2030. Rashi comes with 19 years of professional experience in development and banking sectors, being in senior management roles for over a decade. During 14 years in banking, she led large teams in the retail banking portfolio working for two major private sector banks in India. During this time, she has been responsible for the profitability of a cluster of 11 branches, and a GBP 120 Mn portfolio of asset under management.