

**Rob Lynes**

Rob Lynes has been Country Director of the British Council in India since January 2011. He is a member of the British Council's Regional Leadership Team for South Asia and previously held the posts of Deputy Director Global Operations and Regional Director for the Middle East.

Rob has lived and worked in a number of countries around the world, including Poland, Saudi Arabia, Hungary, Egypt and Germany. While Regional Director for the Middle East he played a key role in re-establishing the British Council's office in Iraq. Rob holds an MA in applied linguistics and before joining the British Council Rob worked as a linguist for a number years in Berlin, taught at the Economic University in Budapest and was Director of one of Hungary's largest language schools.

**Mr. Anand Sudarshan**

Anand Sudarshan is the Founder & Director of Sylvant Advisors Private Limited, an education sector entity that provides a range of advisory & consulting services to institutions, large enterprises, and investors. Sylvant also incubates, invests in, and advises start-up & early stage companies. He is currently an independent non-executive director of NIIT Limited, the pioneer in education & training. In addition, he serves on a number of executive and advisory boards, as well as government committees on policy advisory in education.

Till June 2012, he was Vice-Chairman & Managing Director of Manipal Global Education (MaGE), with whom he had a distinguished career since May 2006. A pioneering global education entity headquartered out of Bangalore, MaGE is the largest higher education & related services and training entity out of India. Notable among the several milestones & achievements MaGE had during Anand's tenure, are MaGE's award-winning technology learning platform, EduNxt, MaGE's Banking Academy which is among the largest of its kind in the world, and expansion of MaGE's multi-country footprint through organic & inorganic strategies.

Anand Sudarshan has been a recognised leader in the education sector since the last 9+ years. He is an active member of FICCI's (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) national committees on Higher Education & School Education, and is the Co-Chair of FICCI's Karnataka State Council. Anand's prior stints include Adea Solutions, Netkraft, The Microland Group (which he co-founded in 1989), Computer Point, and Nelco (a Tata Company).

Anand holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Trichy, India, and a PGDM (MBA) from the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, India. Anand, his wife Padmashri & their son Dhruva live in Bangalore, India.



Prof. Nigel Ecclesfield

Nigel Ecclesfield is currently working as a freelance researcher and consultant. He was Head of Change Implementation Support Programmes – FE and Skills at Jisc, supporting project work to repurpose existing resources and develop innovative uses of technology through FE provider projects throughout the UK. His work included consultancy and advisory work with providers and UK Governments on policy, practice and system issues.

From 1978 to 2003 he worked in Further Education colleges in a range of practitioner and manager roles in Cambridge, London, Liverpool and Devon and from 2001 – 2010 was an inspector with a focus on Work-based and Community Learning. From 2003 he worked in national roles for Becta, managing national surveys and research projects in the further education sector and at LSIS, working on a range of technology projects focused on practitioner skills and development and survey work. From 2012 he worked with Jisc Advance as a Programme Manager managing a national project for all four UK Governments, before taking up his post with Jisc. He is particularly interested in the role of organisations and their influence on practitioner uses of technology, learner-centric education, teacher education and open scholarship. Nigel has been engaged in educational research and project activity since 1985 working for national agencies, European projects and higher education institutions and national bodies in the UK and Europe and has published papers, book chapters and online materials with educational, policy and technology themes.



Dr. Nikhil Sinha

Nikhil Sinha, is the founding Vice Chancellor of the Shiv Nadar University, a position he has held since the launch of SNU in April, 2011. Dr. Sinha is a leading international expert on the information and communication technology industries and in a professional career that spans three decades he has held leadership positions and developed extensive experience as an academician, corporate executive and consultant. Dr. Sinha serves on several corporate boards including those of HCL Infosystems, HCL Corporation, Silverskills Pvt. Ltd. a business process outsourcing company.

Dr. Sinha has an M.A. and Ph.D. in Communication from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. (Hons.) in English Literature from St. Stephen's College, Delhi. He has published numerous articles and papers in scholarly journals and conferences and has been awarded a number of research, publishing and academic grants and awards.

**Professor Sugata Mitra**

Prof. Sugata Mitra is Professor of Educational Technology at the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University, UK.

He is the instigator of the Hole in the Wall (HIW) experiment, where in the year 1999 a Computer was embedded within a wall in an Indian slum at Kalkaji, Delhi and children were allowed to freely use it. The experiment aimed at proving that kids could be taught computers very easily without any formal training. Sugata termed this as Minimally Invasive Education (MIE). The experiment has since been repeated at many places. He is the recipient of many awards from India, the UK, USA and many other countries in the world.

He is a PHD in Physics credited with more than 25 inventions in the area of cognitive science and educational technology. He was conferred the prestigious Dewang Mehta Award for Innovation in Information Technology in the year 2005. Amongst many other awards, he was awarded the 1 million dollar TED Prize in 2013 to put his educational ideas together to create seven laboratories called 'Schools in the Cloud'. He was amongst the first people in the world to invent Voluntary Perception Recording (a continuously variable voting machine) and a hyperlinked computing environment, several years ahead of the Internet.

His interests include Children's Education, Remote Presence, Self---organising systems, Cognitive Systems, Physics and Consciousness.

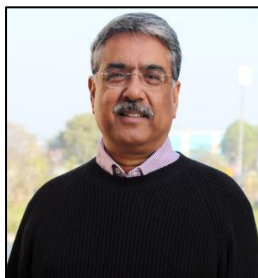
**Mr. Alok Narain**

Alok is a Hotel Management Graduate with a career spanning more than 25 years spread across Hospitality, Telecom and Engineering industries in Operations, Training and Human Resources. Alok's diversified experience has enabled him to gain immense knowledge and understanding in core aspects of HR and Learning.

As an early mover into the BPO space, Alok had the opportunity to contribute in building people practices in this industry and has effectively used brilliant new applications and developments to drive changes across the organization. His special focus has been on the Learning and Development processes and practices.

Prior to moving into the role of Head of HR at Quattrro, Alok handled diverse responsibilities with in HR. Previous to Quattrro, Alok was Head of Training & Quality with Convergys India Services which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Convergys Corporation. He has worked in the hospitality space for a significant part of his early professional career where he gained extensive experience in virtually all aspects of the industry – Operations, Education and Human resources.

He is a staunch believer in the power of technology and automation and has effectively leveraged technology to bring home its advantages in all aspects of HR and Learning.



Dr. Amitava 'Babi' Mitra

Dr. Amitava 'Babi' Mitra is the Dean, School of Engineering and Technology, BML Munjal University, prior to which he was the founder vice-chancellor, Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur. He is excited by the opportunity to help develop a premier institution from the ground up. His focus has been global and domestic growth opportunities that include the shaping and deployment of hybrid learning, flipped classrooms and eLearning in support of teaching and research.

A proven international leader in delivering technology-enabled educational solutions in demanding environments, Dr. Mitra has successfully led entrepreneurial ventures involving 40 to 600 people at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA, at BITS, Pilani, India and at NIIT, Inc. He has over twenty-eight years' experience in institution building, higher education, corporate e-learning, and distance education. He is active in professional organizations and boards including those promoting the development and dissemination of new and strategic uses of technology in teaching and learning.

Dr. Mitra's strategic leadership experience includes active involvement with organisations such as NASSCOM Engineering R&D Talent Council, India; Collegiate School Advisory Board, India; Academic Advisory Board, IEC University, Solan, HP, India; Governing Council, Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation, Kumaon, India; Advisory Board, SPIC MACAY Rajasthan; Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Rajasthan Panel on Education and Skill Development; Honorary Advisory Board, Neutrino IT Technologies Ltd.; Advisory Board, Lessonsmith, USA; Council Member, Gerson Lehman Group (GLG) Research, USA; Advisor, Guidepoint Global, USA and; Member, Gilfus Advisors, USA.



Dr. Anil Prabhakar

Dr. Anil Prabhakar received his PhD in 1997 from Carnegie Mellon University and been with the faculty at the Dept. of Electrical Engineering, IIT-Madras since 2002. His current research interests are in the areas of photonics, magnonics and assistive technologies. In addition to his academic responsibilities, Dr. Prabhakar is a Founder-Trustee of Chetana Charitable Trust and Director of Enability Foundation for Rehabilitation. These organizations focus on increasing awareness about issues faced by persons with disability and empowering individuals through the use of technology. Dr. Prabhakar has also co-founded Unilumen Photonics, a company incubated at the IIT Madras Research Park to fibre laser development for bioengineering and surgical applications.



Professor Gopal Naik

Gopal Naik is Professor of Economics and Social Sciences working on Agriculture and Rural Development Policy at the Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB). He completed Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at University of Illinois, USA. He was faculty member at Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad during 1988-2003 and joined Indian Institute of Management Bangalore in 2003. He has been teaching graduate courses on research methodology, public policy, econometrics and managerial economics. He has been guiding a number of fellow programme students.

His research interest is in the area of economic development, particularly rural and agriculture. He works on related issues such as agribusiness, commodity markets, futures market, forecasting and international trade. In the recent years he has been working in the area of use of technology for delivery of public services in rural areas. He is leading a project on tele-education in 1000 rural schools in Karnataka.

He received Outstanding Ph. D. Dissertation award, Best Student Research Paper Award and Hunter Fellowship from the University of Illinois, Dr. D. K. Desai award for the best paper published in Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics and Gold Medal from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. In 2007 The American Agricultural Economics Association presented him the Award for Professional Excellence in recognition of superior achievement in Agricultural Economics for a co-authored paper in Review of Agricultural Economics. He received Meritorious Paper award from International Conference on the Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance in 2010.



Ms. Sucheta B. Phadke

An Independent Consultant – Learning Strategist with 23 years of experience in the field. Sucheta has a Master's degree in Communication Studies from University of Pune and is a Chevening Scholar.

Prior to consulting, she was Senior Vice-President at Core Education and Technologies Ltd-Content Development and Global Learning Solutions division. Earlier, with IL&FS Education as Head – Content.

Learning strategy; solutions design of technology enhanced learning-training (TELT) programs (online, blended) for K12, Skill Development and Higher Education with a focus on improving access, reach and scale is her passion. Sucheta stresses on the use of approaches and strategies which focus on real life needs and active participation of the user / learner in the process.

She enjoys training teams in Learning experience design using technology and has trained Resource persons of - Dept. Of Education – University of Mumbai; Development & Educational Communication Unit, Satellite Application Centre – (DECU-SAC-ISRO) Ahmedabad; UGC Academic Staff College; Dept. of Educational Technology- SNDT; Dept. Of Education - Govt. Of Haryana and Bihar; and Pharmacy colleges in Mumbai , Subject experts from organizations like Tata Technologies, Integron Human Capital Services, InOpen Technologies and Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation.

She has written for Digital Learning, Educomm Asia, Beyond Friendship and IEEE Newsletter- Plugfest 2005, and presented papers at University conferences.



Mr. Udai Singh

Udai is currently Chief Strategy Officer, NIIT Limited. Additionally, he drives strategic change initiatives for the organization and also oversees the Global Government Business of NIIT and in this capacity is responsible for the path-breaking Chiphen Rigpel Project in Bhutan.

Udai has been involved in the conceptualization & implementation of numerous technology enabled learning innovations at NIIT over the years. He helped setup NetVarsity.Com one of the world's earliest online learning portals in 1996, and subsequently evolved this into a Brick-and-Portal model of Blended Education delivery at NIIT in 2002. In 2006, he helped setup NIIT Imperia and brought Executive Management Education from Premier institutes such as IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Calcutta to working professionals across India through a unique Synchronous Learning Technology platform. Most recently he conceptualized & deployed India's first Cloud Campus™ featuring NIIT's unique Cloud & Collaborative Learning Model.

In the past, Udai has also been responsible for forging strategic relationships with Technology majors and has managed NIIT's Global Relationships with Microsoft, Intel, Sun, and CompTIA. As Head of Global Design, Delivery and Information Systems (GDD) Udai led NIIT's efforts in the use of Technology to drive innovation in Business Processes while simultaneously bringing to market innovative new products.

Additionally, Udai is a founder member of the NIIT Education Society and served on the Board of Governors of the NIIT Institute of Information Technology (TNI), now the NIIT University. In this role, he is deeply involved in the design of a new generation Institute of Higher Learning which will focus on emerging areas in Information Technology, Bioinformatics, and Educational Technology.

Udai did his B.E. in Electrical & Electronics Engineering and M.E. in Electronics & Control from BITS Pilani. Became the youngest Lecturer at the age of 21 and taught Computer Science courses for a year before joining NIIT in 1990.



Manjula Rao

Manjula Rao leads on Internationalising Higher Education programme for the British Council in India. In her current role as Assistant Director, she contributes to British Council's strategy for higher education in India, advises the UK sector on latest developments in India, plans and designs student and faculty mobility programmes between the UK and India to build a talent pipeline and enhance teaching and research. She is responsible for creating platforms for knowledge exchange between the two countries to inform policy, share market insights and trends in the sector.

**Richard Everitt**

Richard Everitt is Director Education, British Council India, responsible for the strategic direction of the education portfolio. Richard studied at the University of Leeds, the University of South Florida and the John's Hopkins University (School of Advanced International Studies). Richard is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and The Norwich Society and given the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Institute of International Education. He is Chair of the International Education Research Consortium. Other British Council postings include: USA as Deputy Director; China - managing the HSBC funded UK-China School Links Programme; Colombia, heading arts, education, governance, and creative industries projects and Poland - responsible for a European sports education programme. Richard previously worked at Channel 5 Television, London and as a teacher of English in Uganda.