

# CONNECTS →

Issue 001 **Highlights of INSA in 2023**

## **From the Desk of National President**

As we approach the culmination of another remarkable year, I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to each member of the Indian National Students Association - UK.

Reflecting on the strides we've made together, this year has been a testament to our collective dedication, resilience, and passion for fostering a vibrant community among Indian students in the UK. As National President, I am immensely proud of the initiatives, events, and strides we've taken in empowering our members, advocating for their needs, and nurturing a sense of belonging.

Throughout the year, our association has been a beacon of support, providing a platform for cultural exchange, academic guidance, and camaraderie. Whether through enriching discussions, cultural celebrations, or academic endeavors, each one of you has contributed significantly to the tapestry of our vibrant community.

As we bid adieu to this year, let us carry forward the invaluable lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the experiences shared. Let the successes and challenges of this year fuel our aspirations for an even more impactful and fulfilling journey ahead.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member whose enthusiasm and commitment have been the driving force behind our accomplishments. Together, let us continue to inspire, learn, and grow, making a meaningful difference in the lives of our fellow students and the larger community.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year filled with renewed energy, endless opportunities, and shared accomplishments.

Warm regards,  
Amit Tiwari  
National President  
Indian National Students Association - UK

## Reflecting on INSA's National Committee in London!



Dedicating the success of INSA National Committee's Day to the incredible INSA Teams who travelled from all corners of UK.

We had over 60 amazing leaders from 26+ chapters across the UK gathering under one roof, the energy was electrifying! There were discussions that sparked innovation, exchanges that opened up new perspectives, and plans that set the stage for our future endeavors. The whole room was buzzing with collaboration. With diverse backgrounds and experiences, everyone came together like a powerhouse, creating an atmosphere charged with excitement.

This wasn't just a meeting—it was a testament to what happens when passionate minds come together. It showcased the power of teamwork, visionary leadership, and the potential we have when we work towards a common goal.

More here, <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C061QRgNuY-/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

<https://fb.watch/oZV3tYp91k/>

<https://twitter.com/INSAUK/status/1736156466032087540?t=zutilzAU6yRtY6S51MGobQ&s=19>

## #INSA Networks

INSA's in-person meetup with Mayuri Rajput and Nikita Singh was a super success with 300 registrations in no time and attendees were a diverse range of folks - studying or working in the UK and some even travelled from as far as Liverpool.

Things that were covered in this brief meet-up:

1. How to navigate UK job market as an International Student
2. Importance of Cold reach out and tapping hidden job market in the UK
3. Optimising LinkedIn profile to land dream opportunities
4. How to cope up with rejections
5. Dos and Don'ts on your CV
6. And loads of pictures and created memories!



Watch here, [https://www.instagram.com/p/C0\\_oAZxJNhh/](https://www.instagram.com/p/C0_oAZxJNhh/)

&

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C0lcoYgy3EN/>

# Welcome Reception for Students in Scotland



The Welcome Reception Event hosted for the new students by the Consulate General of India,Edinburgh in collaboration with INSA was a triumph!

Distinguished speakers Shri Gopalan RajaGopalan- Head of TCS-Scotland, Rittika Chanda Parruck MBE, Director of Education at the British Council India, Right Honourable Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Robert Aldridge, and Prof. Sreevas Sahasranam,Uni of Strathclyde,Shri Bijay Selvaraj Consular General, Puneet Dwivedi- Prersident INSA Scotland who illuminated diverse fields, addressed the students.



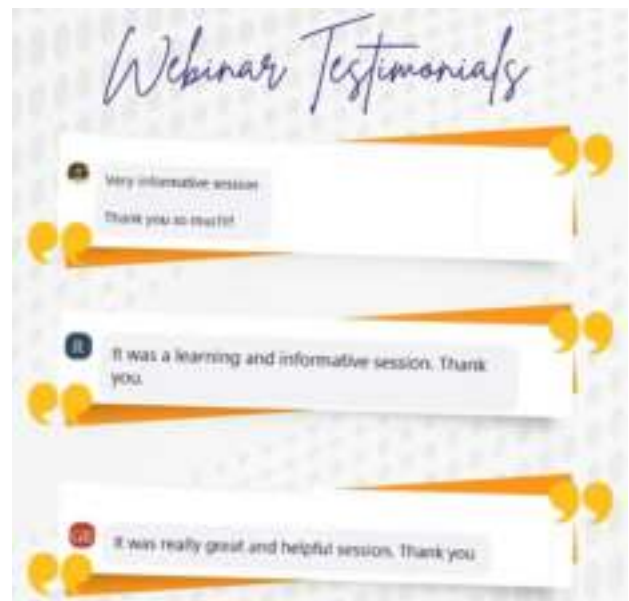
The event also had the award presentation by INSA to Prof Pankaj Pankaj, Uni of Edinburgh for his outstanding contributions to the INDIA- UK relations and for his invaluable support to INSA.



Watch here:-<https://www.instagram.com/p/COM9WsLNSjZ/>

# INSA's PhD Webinar

Webinar on 'What You Need to Know About Ph.D. in the UK' was triumph! Back in November INSA hosted an insightful event, drawing substantial audience from both within UK & India. Participants gained invaluable insights into the UK's Ph.D. landscape, thanks to expert inputs from INSA. The event's success is a testament to our commitment to fostering knowledge and collaboration.



## WELCOME RECEPTION' 23



INSA's Welcome Reception was held at Greenwood Theater @ King's College London, for new students.

The evening is the conglomeration of students from almost 31 universities across UK along with inspiring and young leaders of INSA.

Captivating the audience were our esteemed speakers, who touched upon vital topics that underscore the importance of determination and seizing opportunities in the UK while preserving a strong connection to Indian heritage. Extending our sincere thanks to Nidhi Chaudhary, Bobby Mehta, Gaurav Arora, Rachit Juneja, Lord Rami Ranger Lord Karan Bilimoria, Jitender Arora, & Kushal Mehra for sharing their experience and expertise with the students. This was Followed by Networking Boat Party

A heartfelt thanks to our guests, our influencer panel, all content creators & our fantastic students who were so enthusiastic & passionate to be a part of INSA.



**Watch highlights here:**

**[https://youtu.be/b\\_AbZoCdWdg?si=-8JJZt2-VkYodspa](https://youtu.be/b_AbZoCdWdg?si=-8JJZt2-VkYodspa)**

# Pre-Departure Webinars

**INSA**  
PRESENTS  
**PRE-DEPARTURE WEBINAR SERIES**  
WEEKLY WEBINARS AND INSIGHTS BY STUDENT LEADERS AND ALUMNI

**AMIT TIWARI**  
National President  
INSA

**HARINI BOTCHA**  
National Students'  
Coordinator  
INSA

**RANJEET RATHORE**  
London Zone  
President  
INSA

Date: 5 August, 2023 | Time: 18:30h IST

**INSA**  
PRESENTS  
**DEPARTURE AND ARRIVALS**  
WEEKLY WEBINARS AND INSIGHTS BY STUDENT LEADERS AND ALUMNI

**PARIN SHAH**  
Head,  
Corporate Relations  
INSA,  
CEO, BechtelIndia

**HRISHIKA  
GOPALKRISHNAN**  
University of  
Glasgow  
INSA

**OMKAR SINGH**  
Co-President  
Midlands Zone  
INSA  
Student Enterprise  
Officer, APU

Date: 12 August, 2023 | Time: 18:30h IST

**INSA**  
PRESENTS  
**PRE-DEPARTURE Q&A**  
WEEKLY WEBINARS AND INSIGHTS BY STUDENT LEADERS AND ALUMNI

**JAY SURYAVANSHI**  
SU Vice President,  
Middlesex University  
Ex-President,  
INSA Midlands

**ADVAIT JOSHI**  
Coordination,  
INSA King's College  
London

**PRIYA CHADHA**  
President,  
INSA Dundee  
University

Date: 19 August, 2023 | Time: 18:30h IST

**INSA**  
PRESENTS  
**PRE-DEPARTURE Q&A**  
WEEKLY WEBINARS AND INSIGHTS BY STUDENT LEADERS AND ALUMNI

**AJAY TUMULAA**  
Mentor,  
INSA Manchester

**AVIKALP KISHORE**  
South West Zone  
President,  
INSA

**SUKRITHA REDDY**  
Vice-President,  
INSA MCK  
Student Officer,  
MCK Student Union

Date: 26 August, 2023 | Time: 18:30h IST

## Webinar Testimonials

— Nitya  
They got this in Pune! Just wanted to say a big thank you to the INSA team for arranging such an insightful session! I'm very excited for more such sessions and definitely looking forward to all the in-person networking events as well. I would also love to get in touch with the team from KCL, soon

— Moksha  
It was a great session, Thankyou so much!

— Kalyani  
It was really informative. Thank you so much!

— Naziya  
Thanks alot for today's session. Would like to connect more with INSA team and looking forward to meet you all in -person.

— Aditi  
Thank you for the session today, really gave us a better idea on how to prepare and other helpful information

— Rajya  
The meeting was amazing...Got the confidence that we have someone to go to in case of any problems. Thanks a lot INSA

Understanding the need of Indian students at the time, INSA initiated a weekly webinar series specially curated to help and guide Indian students to UK, answering all their questions on visa, jobs, accommodation, & life in UK. These webinars soon became a boon for 1000's of students who benefited through the informative sessions. **#INSACARES**

# INSA - Weekly Radio Hour launched on August 15th

Student Journey, Experiences, Guidance,  
inspiring stories, motivation, well-being, etc.  
from INSA Family of Leaders

+ MUSIC



**INSA RADIO HOUR** with Deepak Agnihotri

Radio Talk Show  
Every Tuesday 9 PM - 10 PM

**Deepak Agnihotri** IN CONVERSATION WITH **Manasa Vemulapati**

ON TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2023  
AT 09.00 PM

Tune in to BHF Radio online

**INSA RADIO HOUR** with Deepak Agnihotri

Radio Talk Show  
Every Tuesday 9 PM - 10 PM

**Deepak Agnihotri** Host IN CONVERSATION WITH **Sayed Zafar**  
President, INSA Cardiff

ON TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023  
AT 09.00 PM

Tune in to BHF Radio online

**INSA RADIO HOUR** with Deepak Agnihotri

Radio Talk Show  
Every Tuesday 9 PM - 10 PM

**Deepak Agnihotri** Host IN CONVERSATION WITH **Avikalp Kishore**  
President, INSA South - West Zone

ON TUESDAY 14 NOV 2023  
AT 09.00 PM

Tune in to BHF Radio online

**INSA RADIO HOUR** with Deepak Agnihotri

Radio Talk Show  
Every Tuesday 9 PM - 10 PM

**Deepak Agnihotri** Host IN CONVERSATION WITH **Agrim Jain**  
President INSA Glasgow

ON TUESDAY 05 DEC 2023  
AT 09.00 PM

Tune in to BHF Radio online

**INSA RADIO HOUR** with Deepak Agnihotri

**Deepak Agnihotri** IN CONVERSATION WITH **Omkar Singh**

This week, we will be joined by Omkar Singh, who will share his experiences and journey thus far, including insights into opportunities in the UK and valuable advice for students

5 September Tuesday 9pm - 10pm

Tune in to BHF Radio

**INSA RADIO HOUR** with Deepak Agnihotri

Radio Talk Show  
Every Tuesday 9 PM - 10 PM

**Deepak Agnihotri** Host IN CONVERSATION WITH **Jayanth Gopalakrishna**  
Social media officer, INSA Scotland

ON TUESDAY 21 NOV 2023  
AT 09.00 PM

Tune in to BHF Radio online

**INSA RADIO HOUR** with Deepak Agnihotri

Radio Talk Show  
Every Tuesday 9 PM - 10 PM

**Deepak Agnihotri** Host IN CONVERSATION WITH **ABRAHAM SAM DANIEL**  
President, INSA Leeds

ON TUESDAY 07 NOV 2023  
AT 09.00 PM

Tune in to BHF Radio online

**INSA RADIO HOUR** with Deepak Agnihotri

Radio Talk Show  
Every Tuesday 9 PM - 10 PM

**Deepak Agnihotri** Host IN CONVERSATION WITH **Sukrisha Reddy**  
INSA LinkedIn Head

ON TUESDAY 12 DEC 2023  
AT 09.00 PM

Tune in to BHF Radio online

**INSA RADIO HOUR** with Deepak Agnihotri

Radio Talk Show  
Every Tuesday 9 PM - 10 PM

**Deepak Agnihotri** Host IN CONVERSATION WITH **Rohit Mahadevu**  
Head of Design INSA

ON TUESDAY 19 DEC 2023  
AT 09.00 PM

Tune in to BHF Radio online

Weekly student Radio Hour in association with BHF



Every Tuesday 9PM to 10 PM



# #IndependenceDay



## INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY *Celebrations*

At  
various INSA Chapters & Societies  
across UK.

15th August



Watch here :- <https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cv-8gINrVPR/?igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>



# Pre-Departure meetings in India

**NEW DELHI @  
Constitution Club of India**



A celebration of student aspirations at the UK Pre-Departure Meet organized by INSA-UK in New Delhi ! Key note speeches by Shri Y.K. Sinha CIC, Gov.of India & Ex- High Commissioner @[hcilondon](#) and Allison Barret, country director @[inbritish](#) to the students gave a positive outlook to their new life as international students in UK. INSA students & alumini motivated & clarified various questions posed by the students.

The event was attended in big numbers and received a phenomenal response from everyone as we set to host more such events.



**Hyderabad@T-Hub**



Featuring essential insights from current students from UK & the exclusive opportunity to join at T-Hub, India's largest incubation centre, INSA's Hyderabad Pre-Departure Event was an opportunity like none other !

# Mumbai @ Cricket Club of India



**Thankful to Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha (Cabinet minister for skill & development Govt. of Maharashtra & Founder Lodha Group), Chandan Taparia, Idzes Kundan, IAS (Principal Sec. minority affairs) & our student panel who brought our Pre-Departure Event series to an impactful end. This event was in partnership with LSE SU India Society & Loughborough Indian Society.**

**\*Special mention to INSA Bharath team along with our own Vasikar Sathiyamoorthy, Tia Srivastava, Anushka Gupta, for facilitating these successful events.**

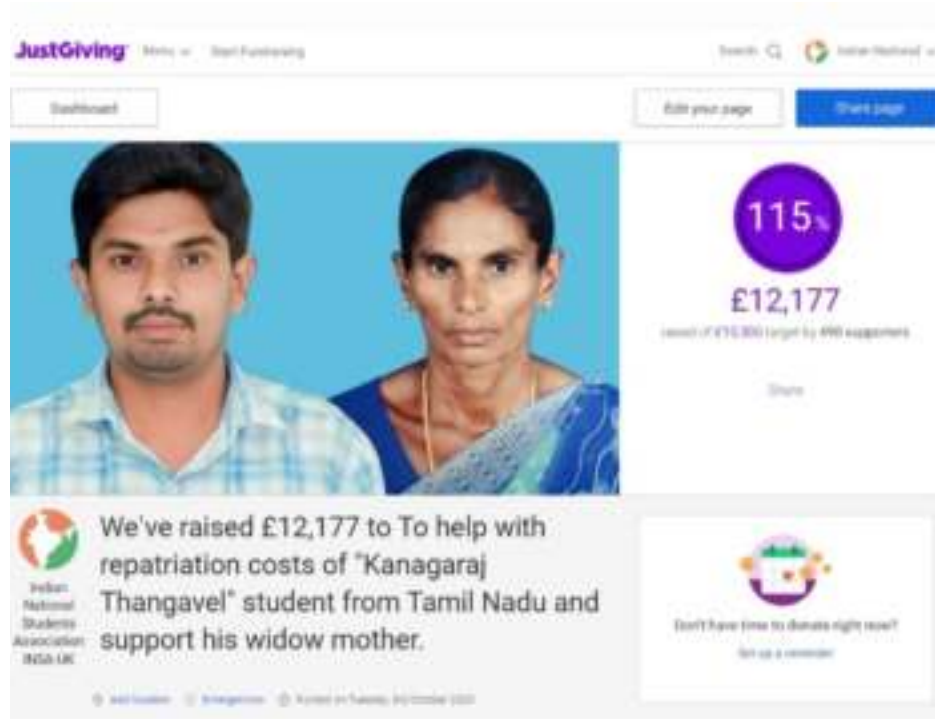
Watch here : <https://www.instagram.com/p/CwFTB7ygFxn/>

&

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CxKoceByQk3/>

# INSA Cares

Grounded to our first priority of working for the well-being and protecting the interests of Indian students coming to the UK, INSA has always been at the forefront of reaching out to the needy ones at tragic or stressful times. Together as TeamINSA we were able to help as much as possible. Answering number of email queries, DM,s on Social Media platforms, Whatsapp's on various levels of question on subjects concerning to students is a day-to-day task at INSA.



- Helped and assisted in repatriation process of unfortunate tragedies (about 14 deaths in last 8 months)
- Voiced against if & any unfair treatment of Indian students at various uni's and guided the students through our Subject Matter Experts / direct them to professional bodies. 200+ students were helped in 2023 in such cases by INSA.



<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/other-news/tamil-nadu-student-pulled-from-uk-canal-dies/articleshow/101249189.cms?from=mdr>

Indian National Students Association (INSA) Aston University is supporting the repatriation process and his appointed next of kin in the UK. "No one knows why he was by himself at the canal at that time of night. No one knows what happened. It is still being investigated," Kishore Dattu, INSA general secretary, said. "His parents are more than shocked. The father is trying to coordinate the repatriation of his body but the mother is in deep grief," he said.

**We thank all our volunteers and professional consultants for their valuable time through out this year.**

# INSA Hosted Famous Author & Diplomat Shri Amish Tripathi at our Warwick & Glasgow Chapters



[Watch Here :https://www.instagram.com/p/Cpc4Objgmy\\_/](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cpc4Objgmy_/)  
&  
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CtlzbJQAP3a/>

# G20/Y20 CONCLAVE



INSA UK is proud to have partnered with Y20 India 2023, the youth working group of G20. Jointly, we have organised various events, including the UK's only Youth 20 meet, the 'Y20 Conclave UK 2023' & Y20 Talks. The #Y20 conclave at University of Warwick exceeded all expectations and inspired us to take on new challenges. We're happy to bring together #G20 students. Huge thanks to our incredible speakers for sharing their wisdom & making this event a resounding success.

This success wouldn't have been possible without our incredible INSA team at Warwick.

## INSA- Y20 CONCLAVE



**#INSAEVENTS**



## INSA- Y20 TALKS

### INSA hosts Shri K. Annamalai

As part of Y20 Talks, INSA hosted Shri K. Annamalai - a former IPS officer for an open discussion riveting about his journey in public service and his thoughts on future of India.



Shri Annamalai's message here:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CvCvVRlitzwE/>

# INSA Survey

**INSA**

**CALLING ALL INDIAN STUDENTS IN THE UK!**

**TAKE THE SURVEY HELP SHAPE YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY!**

The survey aims to capture insights into the living standards and experiences of Indian students in the UK, recognising their significance in the international student community.

The survey will identify key areas for enhancing Indian students' experiences in the UK. Results will be shared with relevant stakeholders for policy improvements.

**MAKE AN IMPACT, TAKE THE SURVEY - INSA**

**Fill the Survey - [www.bhryul.com/INSAUKStudentSurvey](http://www.bhryul.com/INSAUKStudentSurvey)**

Participate in the survey to amplify your voice and influence positive changes in your UK academic journey. Let's come together, make a difference, and empower the Indian student community in the UK! 🇮🇳

[www.insa.co.uk](http://www.insa.co.uk) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/insauk) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/insauk) | [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/insauk) | [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) | [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@insauk) | [Snapchat](https://www.snapchat.com/add/insauk) | [WhatsApp](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029...) | [Telegram](https://www.telegram.com/channel/insauk) | [Zoosk](https://www.zoosk.com/channel/insauk) | [Viber](https://www.viber.com/channel/insauk) | [Skype](https://www.skype.com/channel/insauk) | [Signal](https://www.signal.me/channel/insauk) | [WhatsApp](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029...) | [Telegram](https://www.telegram.com/channel/insauk) | [Zoosk](https://www.zoosk.com/channel/insauk) | [Viber](https://www.viber.com/channel/insauk) | [Skype](https://www.skype.com/channel/insauk) | [Signal](https://www.signal.me/channel/insauk)

QR Code

## Participated from :-



## What do students say about their experience? **INSA**

"Come with experience; do not come as a fresher"

"Need support for finding jobs at UK"

"INSA has given me a support system and a networking platform I never thought I could have needed."

"We are not getting jobs after finishing our studies."

"I got to explore new cultures, meet amazing people from all over the world, and learn so much. It was a life-changing experience that broadened my horizons and gave me a new perspective"

"The public transportation is the biggest concern for students as it is very expensive"

"Finding job as an visa holder is way more difficult than acceptance of students in universities."

The full report of this survey will be made available through our website in due course of time.

# INSA in Media



<https://www.economist.com/britain/2023/06/18/indians-are-flocking-to-study-at-british-universities>

Britain | A boom in overseas students

## Indians are flocking to study at British universities

A related risk is that migrant-students, who are often lured by smooth-talking recruiters, find that Britain offers a less than satisfactory experience. Amit Tiwari, of the Indian National Students Association UK, says an increasingly common complaint is over the high cost of living, especially costly housing. Some students also lament that, three years after the start of the pandemic, universities still deliver far too much instruction online.

The danger for British universities is being seen to sell foreign students short. The supply of eager recruits won't dry up soon, but international competition for them grows ever more intense. Not only that. Universities in India itself, both branches of foreign ones and the purely home-grown, are flourishing. Mr Tiwari says that studying at home can seem ever more tempting: "It's not the India it was ten years ago". ■



<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2023/nov/18/uk-universities-paying-millions-in-agent-fees-to-secure-international-students>

## UK universities paying millions in agent fees to secure international students

**Student recruitment industry has rapidly expanded as universities become increasingly dependent on income from overseas**

But in the wider education sector, the reliance on agents has fuelled concerns about alleged unethical practice, including reports of agents directing students towards certain courses due to incentives. Kishore Dattu, general secretary of the Indian National Student Association, which represents Indian students in the UK, said: "Sometimes what the agent does is irrespective of whether it's the right fit for the student. They even try to lure some students with offers, like: we'll give you a laptop or a phone."



Campus  
**Time to reframe narratives around international graduates in UK**

Time to time INSA's student leaders have penned down useful information, thoughts and reflected the feelings of the wider student community through Campus Roundup articles published in [iGlobal](https://www.iglobalnews.com)



<https://www.iglobalnews.com/icomunity/campus/time-to-reframe-narratives-around-international-graduates-in-uk>

<https://www.iglobalnews.com/icomunity/campus/some-tips-to-help-unlock-a-happy-gateway-to-student-life-in-uk>

iGlobal Desk



Campus  
**Inspiring Indian students as they set sail for a fresh start in UK**

iGlobal Desk · 04 Nov 2023 · 3 min read



Campus  
**Some tips to help unlock a happy gateway to student life in UK**

iGlobal Desk · 25 Oct 2023 · 3 min read

<https://www.iglobalnews.com/icomunity/campus/inspiring-indian-students-as-they-set-sail-for-a-fresh-start-in-uk>



Reflecting on the milestones of this year, let's embrace the upcoming year with open hearts and minds. Join us in embracing the opportunities, via the links below to celebrate the diversity, and make a positive difference in the lives of students.

Together, let's write another chapter of inspiration, resilience and success in 2024.

We take this opportunity to thank all our incredible INSA teams across all chapters and Soc's, our Sponsors, our members and each & every well-wisher for their continued support throughout the year.

Happy New Year

From all of us at the "Indian National Students Association - (INSA-UK)

To submit any content for the Newsletter please write to us : [connects@insauk.org](mailto:connects@insauk.org)  
and

for any other, please write to [info@insauk.org](mailto:info@insauk.org).

To stay connected with INSA-UK please follow our SM handles as below.



[www.facebook.com/insauk](http://www.facebook.com/insauk)



[instagram.com/insaukorg](https://www.instagram.com/insaukorg)



<https://uk.linkedin.com/company/insauk>



[@INSAUK](https://twitter.com/INSAUK)



[www.insauk.org/join-us](http://www.insauk.org/join-us)



[www.insauk.org/volunteer-with-insa](http://www.insauk.org/volunteer-with-insa)

Get ready for a new year of challenges & triumphs.  
Wishing you the very best for the year ahead.

HAPPY  
2024

