

Capt. A. Nagaraj Subbarao PhD

Capt. Nagaraj Subbarao is Dean – Executive Education and Professor of Strategy, Leadership, and Organisation Theory. A distinguished academic and maritime professional, he is a Master Mariner, with specialisations in Navigation, Dredging Technology, and Ocean Engineering. During his maritime career, he commanded state-of-the-art vessels across the globe, operating in demanding and often challenging environments. These experiences have profoundly shaped his perspectives on leadership, decision-making under uncertainty, team dynamics, organisational resilience, and managing complexity.

He holds an MBA, M.Phil., and PhD in Human Resource Management and Organisational Behaviour, along with an advanced specialisation in Leadership and Strategy from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He also holds a second PhD in Higher Education from the Swiss School of Management (SSM), Rome, reflecting his deep commitment to scholarship in management education, academic leadership, and institutional transformation.

Over the past two decades, Prof. Subbarao has built a distinctive career at the intersection of industry leadership and academia. Following a successful maritime career spanning more than two decades, he transitioned to higher education, where he has spent over sixteen years designing innovative pedagogical approaches, developing future-ready management programmes, and mentoring thousands of students and working professionals. He believes strongly that universities must play a transformative role in shaping the future of work, fostering innovation, and developing high-quality human capital for society and industry.

His academic interests span leadership, strategy, organisational behaviour, organisational culture, team dynamics, entrepreneurship, executive education, employability, and the impact of emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence, on organisations and society. He is particularly recognised for integrating practice-oriented learning with scholarly

rigour and for championing experiential, case-based, and industry-connected management education.

Prof. Subbarao is also an active consultant, researcher, case writer, and thought leader in leadership development, organisational culture, team effectiveness, change management, and executive education. His contributions to management education have received national and international recognition. He was the recipient of the Change Maker Award for Academia at the Making India Employable Awards and has played a significant role in shaping executive education initiatives that have reached thousands of professionals across India and the Gulf region.

His contribution to management case research has also received international recognition. He was nominated to the Regional Advisory Council for Asia and Oceania of The Case Centre, UK, in recognition of his work and contribution to management case studies and case-based management education.

In recognition of his scholarly contributions and engagement with the international academic community, Prof. Subbarao has been elected a Fellow of the EuroMed Academy of Business, Europe, reflecting his commitment to management scholarship, research, executive education, and international academic collaboration.

A passionate educator, researcher, case writer, and institution builder, Prof. Subbarao continues to work towards creating innovative educational ecosystems that integrate leadership, creativity, entrepreneurship, problem-solving, technology, and sustainability. His work is driven by a larger purpose: to prepare students, leaders, and working professionals to navigate an increasingly complex, uncertain, technology-driven, and interconnected world.