

Ambassador B.S. Prakash

Bio-profile



Born in 1952, Ambassador Prakash has a degree in Physics, a M.A. in Philosophy and a M.Phil. in International Relations.

Positions Held:

- Ambassador of India in Brazil (2008-2012)
- Consul-General of India in San Francisco (2005-2008)
- Head of the U.N. Division in Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (2001-2004)
- Ambassador of India to Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi (1998-2001)
- Deputy High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka (1995-1998)
- Minister and Alternate Representative of India to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna (1992-1995)
- Earlier positions include different diplomatic assignments in Germany, Saudi Arabia and at the Ministry of External Affairs
- Joined Indian Foreign Service in 1975.

Current Professional Interests:

Visiting Professor at Jamia Milia University in New Delhi from January 2013. Visiting scholar at the Foreign Service Institute of India. Engaged in writing a book on the transformation of India-Brazil relations in the last decade.

Continuing engagement with think-tanks and universities.

Areas of specialization:

- In the diplomatic career, extensive experience dealing with United Nations and multi-lateral organizations, with India's immediate neighborhood, USA and Brazil.
- As Head of the United Nations Division and as Alternate Representative to the IAEA, interaction with the UN system including on issues of conflict resolution, terrorism, peace-keeping and peace building, nuclear energy and non-proliferation, human rights and human development, and specific regional situations. Also involved in diplomacy concerning reform of the UN Security Council and structural issues related to the UN reforms. Dealt intensively with the issues of terrorism, including international legal conventions and instruments on combating terrorism.
- Years of experience of conflict in Sri Lanka, both in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi and in Colombo.
- From 2005-08 served at Ambassadorial level in USA. Intensive engagement with the Silicon Valley and with the academic think tanks on the West Coast.

- Since 2008, focus on Latin America in general and Brazil in particular, with participation in conferences and extensive travel in Brazil.

Lectures and teaching experience:

- As an Ambassador and as a professional diplomat, have lectured extensively in universities and think-tanks, apart from public events.
- During 2005-2008, gave lectures at the University of Stanford, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Santa Cruz, East-West Centre in Hawaii, and in Universities of Seattle, Utah and Denver, on subjects ranging from India's foreign policy to globalization and its implications. Have also lectured extensively at World Affairs Council and other institutional think-tanks. From 2008-12 have lectured in Universities and the prestigious diplomatic academy 'Rio Branco' in Brazil.
- Guest-lecturer at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), United Service Institution of India (USI), National Law School, Bangalore and at events at the India International Centre (IIC) and other institutions and think-tanks in India.

Conferences:

- Indian delegate to UN General Assembly, other major UN conferences to the IAEA, ECOSOC and ESCAP.
- Indian delegate to conferences of the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement.
- Member of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism with many countries including US, UK, France and Israel.
- Participant/discussant on a number of conferences in India and Brazil on IBSA, BRICS and BASIC. Member of Indian delegation in conferences of these forums.
- Foreign Office consultations with a number of countries.

Courses:

- National Defence College, New Delhi, 1989 (culminating in M.Phil. degree; published thesis "Policy Framework for India's Relations with its Neighbours," NDC Journal, 1989).
- Senior Fellow at University of Maryland, 1991: attended course on "US Foreign Policy Process."

Academic publications:

- "The United Nations and Peacekeeping Challenges in the 21st Century: An Indian Perspective" in Best Practices and Lessons Learnt in Peacekeeping, USI, 2002.
- "Doctrine and Legal Issues in International Peace Operations: An Indian Perspective" in Indian Journal of International Law, January-March 2004.
- "Issues and Challenges in Modern Peace Operations" in Strategic Analysis (IDSA), January-March 2005.
- "Strengthening and Restructuring Multilateral Institutions: A Perspective" in United Nations: Multilateralism and International Security, IDSA, 2005.
- "Cloning Silicon Valley?" in Innovative India Rises, 2008.
- Articles in the media on IBSA and BRICS.

Publications in media:

- Columnist since 2005 for Rediff.Com, India's premier website, and have contributed more than 80 columns on diverse issues relating to lifestyle, culture, management and technology; columns can be accessed at <http://www.rediff.com/news/prakash.html>
- Columnist for Deccan Herald since 2010. Columns can be seen by Googling B.S. Prakash and Deccan Herald
- Occasional Columnist for The Hindu
- Have also written to various other publications in Sri Lanka, Uganda, the US, and Brazil.
- Compilation entitled "Clueless in California", published in 2009.

Contact Particulars:

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References:

- Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor
- Shri Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.
- Dr. C. Raja Mohan, Professor of International Relations
- Sri Shyam Saran, Chairman, Research and Information (RIS)
- Professor (Dr.) Raka Ray, Centre for South and South-East Asian Studies, University of California at Berkeley (Email: rakaray@berkeley.edu)
