

Ambassador Saurabh Kumar

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Ambassador Saurabh Kumar retired from the Indian Foreign Service as Ambassador of India to the International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation & the UN Offices in Vienna (Outer Space Affairs, Drugs and Crime) and to Austria in October 2009. Prior to this, he served as Ambassador to Ireland (2003-2007) and Vietnam (2000-2003). He also held other senior appointments in the Cabinet Secretariat and Ministry of External Affairs.

His areas of specialisation during his tenure in the Government of India were nuclear, as well as disarmament and international security, issues. He was a member of the Indian delegation to the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament in 1988 and to the UN Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development in 1987.

Ambassador Saurabh Kumar speaks Chinese, having begun his diplomatic career in Hong Kong and Beijing in the mid-seventies (when Chinese politics was yet in the throes of the tumultuous upheavals of the Cultural Revolution, with Mao and Zhou arbiting the charged debates from their deathbeds, as it were) under late President K. R. Narayanan, who was then the Ambassador to China. Apart from continuing professional interest in China (and nuclear, space & other strategic security issues and multilateral international affairs in general), his current academic interests include development economics and international economic relations, the negotiation process, physics and psychology.

A Gold Medalist from Delhi University, Ambassador Saurabh Kumar taught (physics) at Ramjas College, University of Delhi prior to joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1973. He was a doctoral candidate (Fellows Programme in Management) in the Economics Area of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad during 1981-84, on leave from the IFS.

Ambassador Saurabh Kumar was a member of the Informal Group on the 1988 Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-violent World chaired by Hon'ble Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, M.P., which was formed in December 2010 at the instance of the Prime Minister and which submitted its [Report](#) to him in August 2011.

Selected Speeches and Publications

- ["Contribution to the ICWA-Asia Centre China seminar Report" \(August 2015\)"](#)
- ["India through Chinese Lens \(at IDSA website, August 2015\)"](#)
- ["PM Modi's Visit to China: A Peek at the Chinese Press \(July 2015\)"](#)
- [Strategic Musings 16 "Supping with China: The Challenge of Verbiage" \(May 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 15 "The China Challenge: Making Hope and History Rhyme" \(April 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 14 "Pedal power as the 21st century Charkha" \(March 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 13 "Chinese Antics on Arunachal: Stay\(ing\) the Course" \(February 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 12 "Resetting India-China Ties: Fear Not Disruptive Newthink" \(February. 2015\)](#)
- ["Resetting India-China Ties -- Independently, India-Centrically?" \(February. 2015\)](#)

- [Strategic Musings 11 "India-China Comparisons: Need to Beware of Feel Good Factoids" \(Jan. 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 10 "Strategy as Theory for Practice"\(January 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 9 "Intensifying the Indian Gaze at China".\(January 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 8 "India-China Relations: Prime Ministerial Visit Premature"\(December 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 7 "India's China Diplomacy: Looking Back To Look Ahead"\(December 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 6 "Grasping the Key Link: China as the Lynchpin on the Indian Strategic Firmament" \(Dec. 2014\)](#)
- [Valedictory Address at annual ISEC-SASS India-China Conference, Bengaluru \(November 2014\)](#)
- [Introductory Remarks at the NIAS Literary, Arts and Heritage Forum talk by Dr Adam Yamey \(October 2014\)"](#)
- [Strategic Musings 5 "Logic of Strategy in China's 'Developmental Partnership' Idea" \(November 2014\)](#)
- [Book Review for the journal "Social Change":Advancing the Frontier between the Known and the Unknown \(Oct 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 4 "Reading the Tea Leaves Beyond Border Brinkmanship" \(October 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 3 "Yogah Karmasu Kaushalam: Translation Infra-structure in Focus" \(October 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 2 "Waltz Over, Focus Now on Institutional Capacities" \(October 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 1 "Waltzing on the World Stage" \(September 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 0 "The Chinese President's Visit: A Sizing Up Round" \(September 2014\)](#)
- [India-China Relations -- An Introspection \(September 2014\)](#)
abbreviated versions published by IDSA, The Deccan Herald, Indo-Asian News Service etc.:
(http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/IndiaChinaRelations_skumar_150914.html)
(<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/430384/india-china-relations-tangled-web.html>)
- [Edging Past Sixty: Towards a strategic Stock-taking of the Ship of State\(September 2013\), Gandhi Marg Quarterly, 35\(2\), pp297-334](#)
- [Comments on "How India is turning into China" - Pankaj Mishra, The New Republic \(Jan 2013\)](#)
- [The Chinese Media Scene: A Politico-Strategic Take on the State of Play \(NIAS Report R12-2012\)](#)
- [Interview to The Tribune, Chandigarh – Shri Ashok Tuteja, August 21, 2012 \(September 2nd, 2012\)](#)
- [Introductory Remarks at Bangalore International Centre \(August 2012\)](#)
- [Introductory Remarks at NIAS Wednesday Lecture \(July 2012\)](#)
- [Introductory Remarks at Talk on Indian Foreign Policy: the Big Picture, Bangalore International Centre \(April 2012\)](#)
- [Remarks at Valedictory Session of CCCS Seminar on "India-China Relations"\(March 2012\)](#)
- [Valedictory Address at the University of Madras Seminar on "Re-Evaluating US Policy Towards Asia" \(Jan 2012\)](#)
- [Introductory Remarks at NIAS Seminar on China on the Chinese Media Scene Today \(Dec 2011\)](#)
- [Putting Nuclear Weapons to Politico-Diplomatic Use \(NIAS Working Paper 2011\)](#)
- [Science, Diplomacy and Policy \(Remarks at the NIAS-AAAS Workshop, January 2011\)](#)

- [Fifth Raja Ramanna Memorial Lecture \(January 2010\)](#)
- [Agro-Industry as the 'Mahayana' of International Cooperation: A World Waiting to be Born \(RIS Policy Brief no. 44, January 2010\)](#)
- [Securing a Nuclear Weapon Free World \(Mainstream December 5 2009\)](#)
 - A Historic Opportunity Beckons
 - Tackling Mindless Mindsets Mindfully
 - Indian Nuclear Weapons as an International 'Public Good'
 - Heeding the Higher Call of 'Ekla Chalo Re' to do some Heavy Lifting
- [Remarks at the Farewell Reception on retirement from the Indian Foreign Service, October 2009](#)
- [Keynote Address at the India-Austria Leadership Summit Forum, Vienna, 2009](#)
- [Speech at the Diplomatic Academy, Vienna on the occasion of Africa Day, 2008](#)
- [Opening Remarks at the Exhibition on The Churches of Goa, Dublin 2005](#)
- [Inaugural speech at the Fourth Galway Conference on Colonialism, Galway 2004](#)
- [Speech on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of India-Vietnam Relations, Hanoi 2002](#)
- [Atoms for Peace: Retrieving a Lost Ideal \(Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, 1995\)](#)
- "The Chinese & Indian Growth Experience Compared: case study of the Feldman -Mahalanobis model", Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad Working Paper, 1984