

CURRICULAM VITAE

Venu Rajamony

SKILLS, EXPERTISE AND COMPETENCY:

34-year career in diplomacy and international affairs. Value driven inspiring leader with strong intellectual capacity and extensive experience in government relations, advocacy, communication, media relations, and outreach to corporates, civil society and public. Lived and worked in India, the US, Europe, China and UAE. Multilateral experience in Geneva, New York and The Hague.

Exceptional 'people' skills. Capable of developing a vision, shaping strategy and delivering outstanding operational results. Good manager who attaches high importance to focussed implementation, periodic monitoring, evaluation of outcomes and financial as well as reputation risk management. Skilled in identifying priorities, fixing targets and leading team effort to achieve quantifiable and time-bound goals. Experienced in working under pressure and on tight deadlines. A team player who works and interacts effectively with people at all levels. Capable of building healthy relationships based on mutual respect, consensus building, introspection and absorbing feedback. High emotional intelligence and strong sense of integrity. Resilient and capable of perseverance in the face of adversity.

Innovative, energetic and adept at building networks to harness information and opportunities. Contacts across the world include political leaders, influencers, diplomats, civil servants, opinion makers, business, media, academics and civil society. Experienced in operating effectively in an international environment and across different cultural contexts. Competent in managing complex interactions with multiple stakeholders as well as building partnerships with public and private sector.

Skilled communicator. Powerful, persuasive and credible advocate. Former journalist with decades of experience handling media relations and public information activities for the Indian Government. Served as Press Secretary/Principal spokesperson to Indian President Pranab Mukherjee for five years and Chef de Cabinet to the Indian Foreign Minister for two years. Engaged closely with political and business leaders, media and civil society in India and abroad at the highest levels. Good public speaker. Have addressed large and diverse audiences in many countries on wide range of topics. Author of many books and publications.

Worked in Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Ministry of Finance in the Indian Government in important leadership and management positions. Substantial experience in formulation and implementation of policy, political analysis of complex situations, thinking on the feet and taking quick judgement calls. Tenure as India's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and as Consul General of India in Dubai marked by number of unique initiatives to build India's brand image and ^[P]_[SEP] promote political, educational, cultural and business ties. Transformed the Indian Missions in both countries into high performing organisations with a value based culture. ^[P]_[SEP]

Led India's policy towards multilateral financial institutions like World Bank, IMF, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development. Managed a portfolio of US \$ 34 billion worth of loans from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank projects. Responsibilities included coordinating with Government agencies for developing project proposals, selecting projects after a funding pitch, allocating resources, negotiation of loans and periodic supervision of implementation.

Asia Foundation Fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington DC, during 2001-2002. Addressed University and think tank audiences across the US and Canada. Authored a widely cited monograph - *India-China-US: A Soft Balance of Power System in the Making*.

Firm believer in appropriate and modern technology and its power to transforms lives. Passionate about social impact. Eager to contribute to making the world a better place for the disadvantaged and underprivileged.

DETAILED RESUMÉ

<p>Ambassador of India to the Netherlands.</p> <p>Permanent Representative of India to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.</p> <p>Responsible for India's relations with the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration and other legal institutions in The Hague</p> <p>June 15, 2017 to present</p>	<p>Tenure witnessed first State Visit to India by King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima in October 2019; Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's visit to India in 2018; Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Netherlands in 2017; visit by Indian Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishanker to the Netherlands; and visits to the Netherlands by Chief Ministers of Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal.</p> <p>Leader of the Indian delegation to multiple sessions of the Conference of States Parties and Executive Council of the OPCW.</p> <p>Appeared on behalf of India before the International Court of Justice in the matter of <i>Advisory Opinion concerning the Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius</i>. Member of the Indian delegation before the ICJ in the landmark <i>Jadhav case (India v. Pakistan)</i> and Co-Agent of India in the case concerning the <i>Enrica Lexie Incident (Italy v. India)</i> before the PCA.</p> <p>Launched novel initiatives such as International Yoga Day celebrations in prestigious venues as a whole day wellness festival; a Gandhi March to mark the International Day of Non-Violence; outreach programmes to schools and universities to disseminate the message of 'non-violence'; a tourism promotion initiative "Bollywood on a Boat" in the canals of Amsterdam on King's Day; opening of India House to the public on national days and Monuments Day etc.</p> <p>Re-engineered India's image in the Netherlands with "out of the box" PR strategies and by building alliances and developing synergistic networks with local stakeholders.</p> <p>Extensive outreach to business and CEOs, including through CEOs Roundtables organized during high level visits.</p> <p>Authored two books - <i>India and the Netherlands- Past, Present and Future</i> and <i>What We Can Learn From The Dutch – Rebuilding Kerala Post Floods of 2018</i>. The former was released by the King of the Netherlands at a seminar organized as curtain raiser to his State Visit in September 2019.</p>
<p>Press Secretary to the President of India</p> <p>August 2012 - June 2017</p>	<p>Principal spokesperson.</p> <p>Member of the President's team during visits to India by Heads of State/Government including Emperor Akihito of Japan, President Xi Jinping of China, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Barack Obama of USA, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, President François Hollande of France, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan etc.</p> <p>Senior member of President Mukherjee's delegation during State visits to 20 countries, including China, Russia, Palestine, Israel, Bangladesh and Vietnam.</p> <p>Accompanied the President on over 100 official tours in India, including to premier universities and educational institutions. Supported the organization of Innovation Clubs in various universities and an annual innovation exhibition in the President Palace.</p>

<p>Joint Secretary (Multilateral Institutions) Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi October 2010-July 2012</p>	<p>Supervised external assistance to India of around \$34 Billion (spread over 140 projects) from multilateral development banks. Member of Indian delegations to the Spring and Autumn meetings of the IMF and the World Bank as well as annual meetings of the Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development.</p>
<p>Joint Secretary (Energy Security, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi February - September 2010</p>	<p>Maintained close coordination with energy ministries facilitating their international engagement on energy issues Focal point for multilateral meetings dealing with Energy</p>
<p>Consul General of India Dubai January 2007- February 2010</p>	<p>Made extensive efforts to advance the welfare of the over two million strong Indian community and reach out to UAE nationals. These efforts included providing shelter to victims of human trafficking; taking up the cause of migrant workers deprived of their rights or due wages; measures to prevent exploitation of housemaids; education programmes for workers including in English language and use of computers; provision of legal and financial support to those in need etc. Ensuring the smooth roll out of consular services to such a large population was a huge, complex exercise. This was managed with efficiency to the satisfaction of all stakeholders. Implemented a highly successful project to outsource passport and visa collection. Promoted trade and investment between India and the UAE resulting in UAE becoming India's number one trading partner in 2009-10 with US \$ 45 billion worth of trade. Enhanced India's image and soft power through a number of initiatives including a regular radio show, a publication titled 'India Matters' and a first of its kind book on India – UAE relations.</p>
<p>Minister (Press, Information and Culture) Embassy of India, Washington DC June 2005 – January 2007</p>	<p>Spokesperson of the Indian Embassy in Washington DC. Responsible for the public diplomacy efforts of the Embassy, media interface, information outreach activities, cultural relations and contacts in the field of education and think tanks.</p>
<p>Director (Disarmament & International Security Affairs), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi August 2004-June 2005</p>	<p>Leader of Indian delegations to the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter Sessional Group meetings in Phnom Penh and Berlin; the ARF Inter Sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime in Bangkok and meeting of experts to negotiate a Regional Agreement on Anti Piracy held in Tokyo. Member of the Indian delegation for India-Japan Foreign Office Consultations; India-Russia Strategic Dialogue; India-US talks on Next Steps in Strategic Partnership; India-Israel, India-Myanmar and BIMSTEC Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism</p>
<p>Chef de Cabinet to the External Affairs Minister Government of India, New Delhi June 2002-July 2004</p>	<p>Principal Advisor to the Foreign Minister on all policy matters. Supported the Minister in formulation as well as implementation of policy; Member of the Indian Delegation to the WSSD in 2002, UN General Assembly in 2002 and 2003, NAM Summit in 2003, Commonwealth Summit and G-15 Summit in 2004. Accompanied the Foreign Minister on bilateral visits to the US, UK, Canada, China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia.</p>

<p>Asia Foundation Fellow Center for Strategic & International Studies, Washington DC September 2001-March 2002</p>	<p>Monograph authored on India, China and the US triangle was translated into multiple languages, including Chinese. Extensive engagement with think tank community of Washington DC.</p> <p>Delivered lectures at the CSIS; the Industrial College of Armed Forces under the National Defence University; Georgetown University; Skidmore College (New York State); McGill University (Canada); Asia Foundation, Washington DC; Center for Advanced Studies of India, University of Pennsylvania; University of Washington, Seattle; Rand Corporation, Santa Monica; University of Southern California; UCLA: East West Center, Hawaii; Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Hawaii, American Enterprise Institute, Washington DC etc. and addressed chapters of the American Committee on Foreign Relations in Boise, Idaho; Tucson, Arizona and Albuquerque, New Mexico.</p>
<p>Political Counsellor Embassy of India, Beijing August 1999-June 2002</p>	<p>Spokesperson, Member of Indian Delegation to 8th and 9th Sessions of the Group of Military and Diplomatic Experts on the India-China Border Question;</p> <p>Member of Indian Delegation to India-China Security Dialogue and 13th Session of India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question.</p>
<p>First Secretary (Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs) Permanent Mission of India to the UN in Geneva February 1996- June 1999</p>	<p>Spokesperson, Officer responsible for the UN Commission on Human Rights, Human Rights Committee, the UN High Commission for Refugees and International Organization for Migration.</p> <p>Elected unanimously as Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights in 1997.</p> <p>Attended sessions of UNGA in New York as member of the Indian delegation.</p>
<p>Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi June 1993- February 1996</p>	<p>Under Secretary in the Economic Coordination Unit/Officer on Special Duty (Press Relations) in the External Publicity Division. Involved in publicising India's economic reforms worldwide and promotion of investments into India.</p>
<p>Second Secretary (Culture & Information) Embassy of India, Beijing August 1990- June 1993</p>	<p>Extensive outreach to Chinese think tanks, universities and cultural institutions.</p> <p>Edited a publication called 'India Digest' in Chinese compiling articles from the Indian media.</p>
<p>Third Secretary, Consulate General of India, Hong Kong October 1987-June 1990</p>	<p>Attended Chinese language programme of University of Hong Kong.</p>
<p>August 1986</p>	<p>Joined Indian Foreign Service as the topper of the 1986 batch</p>
<p>Staff Correspondent, Indian Express, Kochi, Kerala, India, 1984-1986</p>	<p>Earned reputation for rigorous investigation and comprehensive reportage with India's leading national daily.</p>

EDUCATION

- MA (International Studies), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 1983;
- Bachelor of Law (LLB), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, 1986;
- Certificate in Chinese language, Hong Kong University, 1989

LANGUAGES

- **Fluent (Read, Write, Speak):** English, Chinese, Hindi, Malayalam.
- **Working knowledge:** Tamil and French

PUBLICATIONS

- ***India and the Netherlands - Past, Present and Future*** September 2019.
- ***What We Can Learn From The Dutch – Rebuilding Kerala Post 2018 Floods*** January 2019(English and Malayalam)
- ***India and the UAE – In celebration of a legendary friendship*** 2010 (English, Arabic and Malayalam)
- ***India-China-US: A Soft Balance of Power System in the Making*** 2002 (Many languages including Chinese)

Other activities

- Vice President, Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union, New Delhi 1981-82
- Chairman, Maharaja's College Students Union, Ernakulum, Kerala, 1980-81
- Participant NCC India Canada Youth Exchange Programme, 1979-80
- Participant in NCC Republic Day Camp (selected Best Cadet from Kerala), 1977-78

Contact details

- Address: Backershagenlaan 21, 2243 AB Wassenaar (The Netherlands)
- Phone: +31 681919118 (M)
- Email: venurajamony@gmail.com

[July 31, 2020]