

Venu Rajamony

. Mr. Venu Rajamony was Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of the Netherlands from 2017-2020. He was also the Permanent Representative of India to the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and responsible for India's relations with the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration and other legal institutions in The Hague.

Ambassador Rajamony's tenure of over three years saw a vibrancy in India-Netherlands relations like never before with the exchange of several high level visits between the two countries including the 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.

Ambassador Rajamony has authored many acclaimed books. He wrote during his tenure in the Netherlands two books - *India and the Netherlands - Past, Present and Future* (September 2019) and *What We Can Learn From The Dutch – Rebuilding Kerala post 2018 Floods* (January 2019). The book on India and the Netherlands was released by the King of the Netherlands in the presence of the Minister of Education and Culture and many other dignitaries. Ambassador Rajamony's other publications include a monograph *India-China-US Triangle: A Soft Balance of Power in the Making* and a coffee table book titled: *India and the UAE: In Celebration of a Legendary Friendship*.

Born on November 12, 1960, Ambassador Rajamony holds degrees in Law from the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala; a Masters in International Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and a Certificate in Chinese language from University of Hong Kong. Mr.Venu Rajamony joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1986 and has served in Indian missions in Hong Kong, Beijing, Geneva and Washington, D.C. as well as the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi. He was the Asia Foundation Fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington DC between 2001–2002; Consul General of India in Dubai from 2007 to 2010; and Joint Secretary and head of Multilateral Institutions Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India from 2010-

2012. He served as the Press Secretary to the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee for five years from August 2012- May 2017.

Ambassador Rajamony began his career as a journalist in Kochi with the English daily *Indian Express*, where he worked from 1983-86.

He is married to Dr. Saroj Thapa, an educationist and has two sons.

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