

Biodata

Ranjit Gupta is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer. He was a member of the Prime Minister's National Security Advisory Board for the term 2009-2010. He is currently a Distinguished Fellow of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies and a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies. Earlier he has been Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses; Visiting Professor at the Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia; and Ambassador-in-Residence at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has been delivering lectures at think tanks, universities and other academic institutions in India and abroad and participating in conferences, seminars and workshops in India and abroad relating to India's relations with the Gulf region and the Arab world; Southeast Asia and East Asia including in particular relating to Asean, China, Myanmar, Taiwan, Tibet and India's 'Look East' Policy. Sponsored by MEA, he led an Indian team for a series of interactions with Gulf academics in Dubai, New Delhi and Riyadh, on India GCC Relations, 2008-2010. Funded by MEA, he participated in three Workshops at the annual Gulf Research Meeting at the University of Cambridge – in 2012 and 2013 as Workshop Co Director and in 2014 as a participant advocating an Asian role in the future security architecture of the Gulf Region.

He has co-edited three books - India and the Gulf: What Next? Gulf Research Centre Cambridge, 2013; GCC - INDIA Relations: Gulf Research Foundation, Geneva, 2013; A New Gulf Security Architecture. Prospects and Challenges for an Asian Role - Gerlach Press, Berlin & London: 2014.

During his first posting in Cairo, though only a Third Secretary probationer, he was hand picked by the National Liberation Front of South Yemen to be their Advisor for their Independence Talks with the British in Geneva in November 1967; when the entire world believed that the Royalists would succeed in overthrowing the Republican regime in Yemen in 1967/68 he persuaded his influential Ambassador Apasahab Pant that the Republican regime will not fall and consequently in January 1968 he was deputed to Sana'a as Prime Minister's Special Envoy to express India's support for the besieged Republican regime in Yemen.

During his 39 year career with India's Ministry of External Affairs he had served successively in Cairo, New York (at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN), Gangtok (at the time of Sikkim's merger with India), Jeddah (Deputy Chief of Mission), Frankfurt (Consul-General) and Kathmandu (Deputy Chief of Mission). He was the first desk Officer dealing with Bangladesh in MEA from Feb 1972 to May 1974. Another of his postings at Headquarters had been as Head of the West Asia and North Africa Division dealing with Arab countries and Israel. Later he was successively India's Ambassador to Yemen (North), Venezuela (concurrently Consul General in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba), Oman, Thailand (also Permanent Representative to ESCAP) and Spain (concurrently Ambassador to Andorra) and finally was Head of India's Representation in Taiwan from May 2000 to May 2003.

He can be contacted at ranjit.100@gmail.com