

AFRICA DAY WEBINAR

NEXT STEPS IN
INDIA-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP
PANDEMIC & BEYONDMONDAY, MAY 25, 2020; TIME: 11.30 AM-1 PM (IST)
(CHECK-IN TIME AT ZOOM – 11.20 AM)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Shri Rahul Chhabra



Mr Rahul Chhabra is currently India's High Commissioner of India to Kenya, Ambassador of India to Somalia, Permanent Representative of India to UNEP, Permanent Representative of India to UNHABITAT, and Secretary (Economic Relations)-Designate, Ministry of External Affairs. Earlier, he was Ambassador of India to Hungary and Bosnia & Herzegovina from August 2015 to October 2018; at Headquarters, he worked as Joint Secretary (Central Europe) in the Ministry of External Affairs. He conceived and organized the first 2 editions of the India Central Europe Business Forum which has now become a regular feature in the Indian business calendar. During this assignment, he was instrumental in focusing India's foreign policy towards the Arctic and the V-4.

An alumnus of the prestigious St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, Delhi School of Economics and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta, Mr Chhabra worked tirelessly to promote foreign investment flows into India. He served as Director for External Publicity at the Ministry of External Affairs and Director in the Foreign Secretary's Office where he was part of the Indian delegation that negotiated the historic Indo-US Nuclear Agreement. During his stints abroad, Mr. Chhabra has served in United States, China, France, Belgium, Senegal, the Philippines and Hungary. In Beijing, he served as Deputy Chief of Mission during an extremely sensitive phase of the Indo-China relationship.

PANELISTS (INDIA)

DAVID RASQUINHA



David Rasquinha is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Export-Import Bank of India. Mr Rasquinha joined the Exim Bank in 1984-85, and since then has had a wide-ranging exposure to the broad field of export credit, having worked in the areas of Treasury, Multilateral Agency Funded Projects, Planning & Research, Risk Management, Trade Finance, Project Finance and Project Exports. He has served as a member on several Working Groups set up by Reserve Bank of India for working capital finance to software units, facilitation measures for exporters, etc. He is a Member of the National Jury for the CII - Exim Award for Business Excellence, a Total Quality Management Award based on the TQM model of the European Foundation for Quality Management. David has also been a Director on the Boards of 4 Indian companies, and is currently a Director on the Board of ECGC Ltd. His insights on export credit and the Indian economy are often sought in panel discussions and seminars.

Amb. Virendra Gupta



Amb. Virendra Gupta served as India's High Commissioner in Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, South Africa as well as several other Caribbean countries. He also served as Deputy Director General of India's largest security studies think tank IDSA and Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations. He served as a Visiting Professor at School of International Studies, JNU for a year during 2018-2019. He is currently associated with a number of NGOs and think tanks and takes active interest in public policy issues. As President of a well-known NGO 'Antar Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad', he is particularly focussed on Indian diaspora and neighbourhood issues. He has edited several books including 'Pakistan Occupied Kashmir - Untold Story', 'India's Neighbourhood - Challenges Ahead' and 'Energy Security: Asia Pacific Perspectives' and has contributed chapters in various books including a recent publication 'The Modi Doctrine: New Paradigms in India's Foreign Policy'.

Rajen Harshé



Rajen Harshé is currently the President of G.B. Pant Social Institute, Allahabad. He is former and founder Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Allahabad (2005-10). Dr. Harshé is an eminent social scientist, a distinguished scholar in international relations studies and an educationist. He was President of the African Studies Association of India (2005-11), sectional President of the Indian History Congress for the year (2009-10), President of the Indian Congress of Asian and Pacific Studies (2009-10) and Editor in Chief of Africa Review (2006-12). Among the several books and a wide range of articles that he has written, his seminal work entitled Twentieth Century Imperialism Shifting Contours and Changing Conceptions (1997) has earned him enviable international recognition. His latest book is Africa in World Affairs: Politics of Imperialism, the Cold War and Globalization (2019).

Pranav Kumar



Mr. Pranav Kumar has over 25 years of professional experience in International Trade Policy advocacy including international business strategy for private sector, teaching, research, project management with primary expertise on trade and development, multilateral trade negotiations under the aegis of WTO (World Trade Organisation) and regional/bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Since February 2012, he has been working as head of International Trade Policy with India's apex business chamber Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). As a head of International Trade Policy division of CII, he engages closely with the Government of India (GoI) and Industry members across all sectors on all aspects of trade negotiation and policy formulation and builds Indian Industry position on International Trade Policy which feeds into the negotiation process for the GoI. Previously he worked as a Senior Trade Policy Advisor with the joint International Trade Policy team (India Trade Policy Unit) of British High Commission, New Delhi and DFID India.

MODERATOR

Manish Chand



Manish Chand is Founder-CEO of TGII Media Private Limited, a leading media, publishing and research company, and Editor-in-Chief, "India and World," a magazine-journal focused on international affairs and India Writes Network (www.indiawrites.org). He also heads The Global Insights India (TGII), the research consultancy-cum-think tank set up by India Writes Network. A well-known foreign affairs analyst who has been widely quoted and interviewed by media outfits, he has authored and edited many books on India-Africa relations, including Two Billion Dreams: Celebrating India-Africa Friendship, India-Africa Partnership: Towards Sustainable Development (RIS) and Engaging with Resurgent Africa (McMillan). He served as Editor of Africa Quarterly, a prestigious journal focused published by ICCR on India-Africa relations, for nearly a decade. He has worked on a host of research and publishing projects for India's Ministry for External Affairs (MEA), and think tanks and industry bodies, including RIS, Observer Research Foundation and CII. As a senior journalist, he has accompanied India's Prime Minister Foreign Minister and Vice-President to over 70 foreign countries.



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(CHECK-IN TIME AT ZOOM – 11.20 AM)****PANELISTS (AFRICA)****H. E. Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam**

H.E. Mr. Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam is Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to India and Non-resident Ambassador of Eritrea to Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. He is also Dean of African Group Heads of Missions in New Delhi. He was Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the State of Eritrea, Beijing, P.R China, Director General Dept. of Trade, Ministry of Trade and Industry Eritrea, Board Director of Housing Commerce bank of Eritrea, Board Director of Eritrean Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Director General of Trade and Promotion Dept, Director General of Maritime Transport Dept. Ministry of Transport and Communication, Eritrea. He has participated in many national and International conferences and regularly lectures at universities and several institutions in India.

Ambassador Anil Sooklal

Ambassador Anil Sooklal is the Deputy Director-General responsible for Asia and the Middle East, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), Republic of South Africa. In addition to his duties as Deputy Director-General; he is also South Africa's BRICS Sherpa, G20 Sherpa and IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) Sherpa and the IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation).

Dr Sooklal previously served as Deputy Director-General: Asia & the Middle East. He also served as Chief Director for North Africa, Acting Chief Director for United Nations Political and Global Security Affairs and Head of the Department's Parliamentary Office in Cape Town, and was co-ordinator of the substance team of the UN World Conference Against Racism, 2001. He was appointed Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg in April 2006 and completed his term of office in January 2012. His previous foreign postings include having been Counsellor (Political) at the South African Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and at the South African High Commission in New Delhi respectively.

H.E. Dinah Grace Akello

H.E. Dinah Grace Akello is Uganda's High Commissioner to India. Prior to this, Ms Akello worked as Ambassador of Uganda in the Republic of Italy (accredited to Greece, Malta, Cyprus, Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia). She was also Permanent Representative of Uganda to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Human Development and Food Security, Roma Tre University, Italy, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work and Social Administration, Makerere University, Uganda. In her dedicated service spanning forty-five (45) years, Ambassador Grace Akello has served in various capacities in government of Uganda, including as Minister and Member of Parliament, and in other global platforms such as the Commonwealth Secretariat (United Kingdom), and the East African Community, (Kenya and Tanzania).

H.E. Mohamed Maliki



H.E. Mohamed Maliki is Ambassador of His Majesty, Mohammed VI, King of Morocco to the Republic of India, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of Maldives And Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, with residence in New Delhi. Earlier, he served as Head (Director) of Asia and Oceania Affairs, Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco (MAEC).

A graduate in literature and trained in Strategic Studies and Diplomatic Studies in Morocco, Pakistan, Malaysia and the United States, Ambassador Maliki is a seasoned diplomat with over two decades experience. From July 2003 to August 2007, he had been the Deputy Ambassador at the Moroccan Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.

H.E. Tizita Mulugeta



H.E. Tizita Mulugeta is Ambassador of Federal democratic Republic of Ethiopia to India since May 2019. She is also accredited to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. She is a PhD graduate from University of Tromsø in Norway in the field of Sociology and humanities and a graduate of Political Science and International relations from Addis Ababa University.

Ambassador Tizita has served as member of advisory group of Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Ethiopia). She taught for more than 12 years at Addis Ababa University in different departments, including Center for Development Studies and Political science and International relations. She also served as Head of Institute of Gender Studies at Addis Ababa University. As an assistance professor in the University, Ambassador Tizita coordinated and managed several research projects in areas of development, including poverty, development and gender studies.

H.E. Sekou Kasse



H.E. Sekou Kasse is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mali to India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand with residence in New Delhi. Earlier, he served as Diplomatic Counselor of the Prime Minister of Mali, Diplomatic Counselor of the Minister of Defence of Mali, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations, and Ambassador, Director of International Organizations at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs of Mali. In his diplomatic career, he served as inspector at the Inspection of Diplomatic and Consular Services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mali and Mali Coordinator at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

