



A Gold medalist from Delhi University, Prof. Saurabh Kumar has had a distinguished career in diplomacy and academics.

Post-retirement from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), he served on the Faculty of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore during 2010-20.

In the IFS, he held three Ambassadorial assignments, last as India's Governor on the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency and Ambassador to the IAEA, UNIDO and the UN Offices in Vienna (and to Austria concurrently). Earlier, in the late nineties, he served as a senior analyst in the Cabinet Secretariat (in its Joint Intelligence Committee, the body charged with preparing policy papers on strategic questions for seniormost decision-makers in Government in a 360 degree, all of Government perspective) and Joint Secretary in the Foreign Service Training Institute.

Prof. Saurabh Kumar's research work, media commentaries and other writings during his term in the NIAS were primarily on disarmament and international security issues, especially nuclear weapons related ones, and India-China relations and China related subjects, which were his areas of specialization in the IFS.

He was an invited member of the Informal Group on Advancement of the 1988 Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan for Nuclear Weapons Free and Non-violent World chaired by Hon<sup>ble</sup> Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, MP, which was established in December 2010 at the instance of PM Manmohan Singh and which submitted its Report to him in August 2011.

As a free-lance strategic analyst, Prof. Saurabh Kumar's professional interests are much wider, extending to all systemic issues, whether external or internal, with a bearing on statecraft; the political and other ramifications of the 'development *problematique*' above all. This stems from his encounter with an ideology in command People's Republic of China' early in his diplomatic career in the mid-seventies.

He considers the comparative perspective afforded to him by that brush with 'China watching', when that country was still in the throes of tumultuous upheavals in the aftermath of radical churning of its State and society in the course of the Cultural Revolution (and as a result of the paradigmatic changes ushered in later, post-1978, as part of the course correction wrought by Deng Xiaoping), to have been a learning experience incompare; an especially edifying one under the mentorship of late President K R Narayanan, who was then the Ambassador to China (and himself a keen student of geo-politics tutored by none other than Harold Laski).

A fluent Chinese speaker, Prof. Saurabh Kumar pioneered the "India in the Chinese Media" project at the NIAS, which featured daily translations of the coverage of India in the Chinese press along with periodic parsing and analyses of the same, during 2015-2021.

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### **EDUCATION:**

| Level  | Exam/Degree                | Board/Univ | Year | Division | Remarks                           |
|--------|----------------------------|------------|------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| School | All India Higher Secondary | CBSE       | 1966 | I        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> rank in the Board |
| UG     | B.Sc. (Hons) Physics       | DELHI      | 1969 | I        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> rank in the Univ. |
| PG     | M.Sc (Physics)             | DELHI      | 1971 | I        | 1 <sup>st</sup> rank in the Univ. |

|          |                                |                |         |      |   |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------|------|---|
| Doctoral | Fellow Programme in Management | IIM, Ahmedabad | 1981-84 | n.a. | Incomplete.<br><br>Qualified for thesis work after successfully clearing the Comprehensive Examination and <i>Viva Voce</i> , but it could not be undertaken due to recall by the Ministry of External Affairs (after Extraordinary Leave Without Pay for a year and a half, preceded by two years' Study Leave, got over.) |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------|------|---|

### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

- A. Lecturer, Ramjas College, University of Delhi 1971-73
- B. Indian Foreign Service 1973-2009
- Ambassador to Austria/International Organisations in Vienna (2008-09)
  - Ambassador to Ireland (2003- 2007)
  - Ambassador to Vietnam (2000-2003)
  - Joint Secretary, Foreign Service Training Institute (1999-2000)
  - Secretary (East), Joint Intelligence Committee, Cabinet Secretariat (1996-98)
  - Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Bhutan (1992-95)
  - Deputy Chief of Mission, Permanent Mission of India, Vienna (1989-92)
- C. T V Raman Pai Chair Professor/Adjunct Professor, 2010-20  
National Institute of Advanced Studies, Blore

### **SELECTED WRITINGS/PUBLICATIONS/SPEECHES**

- [Suggestion to PMO for a UN Conference on Artificial Intelligence \(January, 2023\)](#)
- [Suggestion to T-20 for a G-20 Initiative on Agro-industry \(January, 2023\)](#)
- [Suggestion to T-20 for a G-20 Initiative on Promotion of LiFE through Pedal Power \(Jan, 2023\)](#)
- [Suggestion to T-20 for a G-20 Initiative on the Bottom Billion \(January, 2023\)](#)
- [“Galvanising the Ship of the Indian State: An Agenda for Research and Dialogue” \(August, 2022\)](#)
- [Reigning in China's rise: hard wiring yes, but also soft coordination \(August, 2022\)](#)
- Proposal for a Project for Monitoring Chinese Media Perceptions of India (January 2021) [\(on request\)](#)
- [Towards an Indo-US Partnership 2.0 \(August 2020\)](#)

- [Advent of AI: Can India be Ahead of the Curve? \(Pioneer May 6, 2017\)](#)
- ["India through Chinese Lens" \(IDSA website, August 4, 2015\)](#)
- ["PM Modi's Visit to China: A Peek at the Chinese Press" \(Pioneer July 25, 2015\)](#)
- [Chinese Media Coverage of PM Modi's Visit to China July 2015 \(on request\)](#)
- [Policy Note: PM's Visit to China, May 2015 \(on request\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 17: "Supping with China: The Challenge of Verbiage" \(Pioneer May 9, 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 16: "Resetting India-China Ties: Fear Not Disruptive Newthink" \(Pioneer April 25, 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 15: "The China Challenge: Making Hope and History Rhyme" \(Pioneer April 18, 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 14: "Pedal power as the 21st century Charkha" \(Pioneer March 21, 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 13: "Chinese Antics on Arunachal: Stay\(ing\) the Course" \(Pioneer February 28, 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 12: "Resetting India-China Ties -- Independently, India-Centrically" \(Pioneer February 7, 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 11: "India-China Comparisons: Beware of Feel Good Factoids" \(Pioneer, January 24, 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 10: "Strategy as Theory for Practice" \(Pioneer January 10, 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 9: "Need to Intensify the Indian Gaze at China"\(Pioneer January 3, 2015\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 8: "India-China Relations: Prime Ministerial Visit Premature" \(Pioneer, December 27, 2014/IDSA, December 22, 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 7: "India's China Diplomacy: Looking Back To LookAhead" \(Pioneer December 13, 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 6: "Grasping the Key Link: China as the Lynchpin on the Indian Strategic Firmament" \(Pioneer December 6, 2014\)](#)
- [Valedictory Address at annual ISEC-SASS India-China Conference, Bengaluru \(November 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 5: "Logic of Strategy in China's 'Developmental Partnership' Idea" \(Pioneer, Nov 8, 2014\)](#)
- [Book Review for the journal "Social Change": Advancing the Frontier between the Known and the Unknown \(Vol. 45 Issue 1\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 4: "Reading the Tea Leaves Beyond Border Brinkmanship" \(Pioneer, Oct 25, 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 3: "Yogah Karmasu Kaushalam: Translation Infrastructure in Focus" \(Pioneer, Oct 11, 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 2: "Waltz Over, Focus Now on Institutional Capacities" \(Pioneer, October 4, 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 1: "Waltzing on the World Stage" \(Pioneer, Sep 27, 2014\)](#)
- [Strategic Musings 0: "The Chinese President's Visit: A Sizing Up Round" \(Pioneer, September 20, 2014\)](#)
- ["India-China Relations -- An Introspection" \(NIAS, B'lore September 2014\)](#)

abbreviated versions published by [IDSA](#), Indo-Asian News Service

- [“India-China Relations: Tangled Web of Intangibles” \(Deccan Herald September, 11 2014\)](#)
- [Putting China Studies in the Country on a Firm Footing, June 2014 \(on request\)](#)
- [Proposal for a Project for Monitoring Chinese Media Perceptions of India \(May, 2014\) \(on request\)](#)
- [Suggestions to new External Affairs Minister, Smt. Sushma Swaraj May, 2014 \(on request\)](#)
- [Edging Past Sixty: Towards a Strategic Stock-taking of the Ship of State Gandhi Marg Quarterly, September 2013, 35\(2\), pp 297-334](#)
- [Comments on “How India is turning into China” by Pankaj Mishra, The New Republic \(Mainstream April 28, 2013\)](#)
- [Striving for a Nuclear Weapon Free World \(Business Standard Jan 20, 2013\)](#)
- [Proposal for a Study on the Chinese Economy \(December, 2012\)](#)
- [The Chinese Media Scene: A Politico-Strategic Take on the State of Play \(NIAS Report R12-2012\)](#)
- [Remarks at the Blore International Centre on Indian Foreign Policy: The Big Picture \(April, 2012\)](#)
- [Proposal for a Study on India-China Relations: bhai-bhai to bye-bye, April, 2012 \(on request\)](#)
- [Remarks at Valedictory Session of CCCS, Chennai Seminar on "India-China Relations" \(March 2012\)](#)
- [Nuclear Weapons and India-Pakistan Relations: February 14, 2012 \(on request\)](#)
- [Nuclear Weapons and India-Pakistan Relations: February 13, 2012 \(on request\)](#)
- [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 \(December 2011\)](#)
- [Putting Nuclear Weapons to Politico-Diplomatic Use \(NIAS Working Paper 2011\)](#)
- [Proposal for a Roundtable: “Nuclear Weapons and National Interest: An Introspection” July, 2011 \(on request\)](#)
- [Policy Note: “The Nuclear Weapons Conundrum Re-visited” April, 2011 \(on request\)](#)
- [Science, Diplomacy and Policy \( NIAS-AAAS Workshop, Jan. 2011\)](#)
- [Proposal for a Study of the CTBT Conundrum \(August, 2010\)](#)
- [Presentation made to the NSAB on “Indian Nuclear Weapons: A Strategic Perspective”, March, 2010 \(on request\)](#)
- [Fifth Raja Ramanna Memorial Lecture \(NIAS, January 2010\)](#)
- [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 \(Mainstream, Dec. 5, 2009\)](#)

- 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, Vienna \(October 2009\)](#)
- [Remarks to The Tribune on signing of Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA \(Feb. 2009\)](#)
- [Keynote Address at the India-Austria Leadership Summit Forum, Vienna \(2008\)](#)
- [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 remarks at the Fourth Galway Conference on Colonialism \(GalwaySeptember, 2004\)](#)
- [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, A"bad Working Paper, 1984](#)