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Riva Ganguly Das (India)

Amb. Riva Ganguly Das is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer with 35 years of diplomatic experience. Amb. Das has served as Vice Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, where she was responsible for India’s relations with ASEAN, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Mongolia, Canada, Latin America & the Caribbean, and Pacific Island countries; and for regional organisations like SAARC, BIMSTEC, and IORA.

Amb. Das has extensive experience of both bilateral and multilateral work, and in conducting international negotiations. She has special expertise in dealing with environmental negotiations in the United Nations, especially on climate change matters. She was part of the core negotiating team set up by the Government during India’s Presidency of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2002. Other than COP8, held in New Delhi in 2002, she attended all UNFCCC meetings between 2002 and 2005.

Amb. Das has also handled complex regulatory issues pertaining to the chemical industry as India’s Alternate Permanent Representative to the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). She was part of the Indian delegation to the Second Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention at The Hague.

Amb. Das has served as Ambassador of India to several countries. She has served for two terms in Bangladesh, one of the most important countries in India’s neighbourhood. As India’s High Commissioner to Dhaka, she oversaw a number of connectivity projects being implemented as part of India’s development cooperation partnership and assistance to Bangladesh. She personally monitored several concessional Lines of Credit projects supported by India in Bangladesh, including construction of railway lines and bridges, and setting up of Information Technology Parks. She also worked closely with Indian public sector companies to help resolve issues pertaining to the India-Bangladesh joint venture Maitri Thermal Power Plant in Bangladesh.

Amb. Das has served as Consul General of India in two of the most important global financial capitals: Shanghai (China) and New York (US). During these assignments, she actively promoted Indian business interests abroad and helped increase investments into India, including by having regular engagements and close linkages with various chambers of commerce, export promotion councils, banks, financial companies, and investment firms.

As Joint Secretary in the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, and later as Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Amb. Das has expertise and experience in steering India’s public diplomacy and cultural diplomacy within India as well as across the world. She is also an expert on India’s relations with the Latin American and Caribbean region, having served as Joint Secretary, and later Vice Minister, dealing with the region. She has travelled extensively in South and Central America and the Caribbean.

As India’s Ambassador to Romania, Albania, and Moldova, Amb. Das is also well-versed with the working of the European Union, including its specialised organs.

Since her retirement from the Indian Foreign Service, Amb. Das has joined the Governing Council of Asian Confluence, a think-tank based in Shillong, Meghalaya, India. She also has an advisory role in the Association of Asia Scholars, a network of scholars from across Asia, including all ASEAN countries, Japan, and China. She regularly participates in global seminars and conferences pertaining to foreign policy issues.

I. Education

* Masters in Political Science from Delhi University

II. Positions Held

* Vice Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi: Oct 2020 to Dec 2021
* High Commissioner of India, Dhaka: Mar 2019 to Oct 2020
* Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi: Jul 2017 to Feb 2019
* Consul General of India, New York: March 2016 to July 2017
* Ambassador of India, Bucharest (concurrent accreditation to Albania and Moldova): Sept 2015 to Feb 2016
* Joint Secretary, Public Diplomacy Division, and Latin America & Caribbean Division, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi: Aug 2012 to Sept 2015
* Consul General of India, Shanghai: Nov 2008 to Aug 2012
* Counsellor/Minister, Embassy of India in The Hague: Aug 2005 to Oct 2008
* Director, UN Economic and Social Division, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi: Apr 2002 to July 2005
* First Secretary/Counsellor, High Commission of India in Dhaka: Nov 1998 to Mar 2002
* Deputy Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi: Jun 1997 to Nov 1998
* Passport Officer, Jaipur: Nov 1992 to June 1997
* Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi: Aug 1989 to Nov 1992
* Third Secretary, Embassy of India in Madrid: Oct 1987 to Jul 1989
* Lecturer at Deshbandhu College, Delhi University: 1985