

INDIA—U.S. RELATIONS



FRIDAY, 14 JUNE
II:00 A.M.
238 HRCB



Her Excellency
Nirupama Rao

INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

Her Excellency Nirupama Rao has been Ambassador of India to the U.S. since September 2011. In a diplomatic career spanning over three decades, Rao has served as foreign secretary, the highest office in the Indian Foreign Service (2009–11) and as India's first woman Ambassador to China. Other ambassadorial assignments include Sri Lanka, where she was also India's first woman high commissioner; Peru; and Bolivia. She was designated as spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs in 2001, the first female Indian Foreign Service officer to hold this post; served in the East Asia Division of the Ministry at policy level capacities for several years; was deputy chief of mission at the Indian Embassy in Moscow; and as

minister for press and cultural affairs at the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Rao was a distinguished international executive in residence at the University of Maryland at College Park (1999–2000) and a fellow at the Center for International Affairs (now the Weatherhead Center) at Harvard University in the early 1990s. She received a BA in English with honors from Mount Carmel College, an MA in English literature from the then Marathwada University, and an honorary doctorate from Pondicherry University. Rao and her husband Sudhakar Rao, a distinguished civil servant and former member of the Indian Administrative Service, are the parents of two sons, Nikhilesh and Kartikeya.