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Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

New Delhi

&

**UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asia
Regional Cooperation &
Centre for South Asian Studies
Pondicherry University**

cordially invite you to a Special Lecture on

Relevance of Gandhi in the 21st Century

Chairman's Remarks

Prof. Gurmeet Singh

Vice-Chancellor
Pondicherry University

Special Address

Amb. (Dr.) Anil Sooklal

Deputy Director General
Department of International Relations and
Cooperation, South Africa

Discussion

Vote of Thanks

Prof. A. Subramanyam Raju

Head, Centre for South Asian Studies
Pondicherry University

Date & Time : **31 January 2019, 11.15 a.m.** Venue : **UMISARC Auditorium**

Note : Please Be seated by 11.00 a.m.

About the Speaker

Ambassador Anil Sooklal is the Deputy Director-General responsible for Asia and the Middle East, Department of International Relations and Cooperation. 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).



Academic Qualifications

B.A. (Oriental History and Religious Studies),
University of Durban-Westville (now called University of KwaZulu Natal-UKZN)
B.A. Honours (Cum Laude) (Oriental History and Religious Studies), UKZN
M.A. (Religious Studies), UKZN
D. Phil (Religious Studies), UKZN
Ph.D (Oriental History), UKZN

Positions last held/Career/Memberships/Other Activities

Dr Sooklal held several positions in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. He 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 as 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.

During his tenure as Ambassador in Brussels he served as Chair of SADC Committee of Ambassadors (2008 – 2009), Chair of the Tripartite (SADC, EAC, COMESA) Committee of Ambassadors (2008 – 2009), Member of the Bureau of the ACP Committee of Ambassadors (2007), and Deputy Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee, ACP (2011).

Before joining government in 1995, he followed an academic career, having held teaching positions at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and University of South Africa (UNISA), as a Lecture. During his academic career, he participated in over 20 international academic conferences and 40 national academic conferences. Dr Sooklal published more than 20 journal articles in monographs (both local and international) and he served as the Editor of Nidan, University of Durban-Westville). He also served on the editorial board of the Journal of Religion in Southern Africa. He received several grants for post-graduate research and post-doctoral research abroad from the Human Sciences Research Council and the De Beers Foundation.

He served as a member of the Religious Advisory Board of the SABC from January to August 1995, when he resigned to take up his post at the SA Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

Ambassador Sooklal is a recipient of the following awards

- Adjunct Fellowship at RIS, New Delhi
- Fellowship in Human Rights (1993), United Nations Centre for Human Rights, Geneva
- Internship in Human Rights, United Nations Centre for Human Rights, Geneva (Jul-Sep 1994)
- Adjunct Professor of Fujian Agriculture and forestry University, China (July 2016)
- Honorary Professor of Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana (December 2016)
- Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, MEA, Govt. of India (January 2019)