

Kanwal Sibal

Non-Executive Chairman of EADS India



Biography

Kanwal Sibal joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1966. His diplomatic career spanning 41 years gives him an in-depth understanding of India's political, security and economic interests in the global context. He reached the highest position in the India Foreign Service on his appointment as Foreign Secretary to the Government of India from July 2002 to November 2003.

He began his rich and diverse career in France (1968-1973), was Deputy Spokesman in the Ministry of External Affairs (1973-1975), and after spending an academic year at Oxford University (1975-1976), served in Tanzania (1976-1979) and Portugal (1980-1982). He was Deputy Chief of Mission in Nepal (1982 -1985) and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (1986-1989).

He has held several Ambassadorial level positions. He was India's Ambassador to Turkey (1989-1992) and Deputy Chief of Mission in the United States (1992-1995), with the rank of Ambassador. He served thereafter as India's Ambassador to Egypt (1995-1998) and Ambassador to France (1998-2002). Most recently he was India's Ambassador to Russia (2004-2007).

He is a member of India's National Security Advisory Board.

He is on the Board of Directors of the New York based East-West Institute.

He is on the Advisory Board of the Vivekanand International Foundation.

Ambassador Sibal writes regularly for national journals and periodicals on international affairs. He is invited to speak regularly on these issues. He is an Editorial Consultant to The Indian Defence Review and Foreign Affairs Editor of Force - the two most prominent defense and security related publications.

He has received the high distinction of Grand Officier of the Ordre du Merite from France.

He has an MA degree in English Literature and a Bachelor's degree in Law. He speaks French fluently.