Prof. Varun Sahni (Vice-Chancellor, Jammu University)



Prof. Varun Sahni is Vice-Chancellor of University of Jammu and former Professor in International Politics at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. He is the Editor of South Asian Survey and lectures at the National Defence College and the Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi. He has also lectured at the College of Naval Warfare, Mumbai; Army War College, Mhow; Royal Naval Staff College, Greenwich; Australian Defence College, Canberra Royal Australian Naval College, Jervis Bay; and the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

Before joining the JNU faculty in 1995, Varun Sahni was Junior Research Fellow in Politics and Junior Dean at Lincoln College, Oxford; Resident Fellow of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, New Delhi and Reader in Latin American Politics at Goa University. He has held visiting fellowships/professorships at Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico (1997), CIDE, Mexico City (1997-1999) National Defense University, Washington DC (2003 under the Fulbright Military Academies Initiative) and the Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy, The Australian National University (2008).

Professor Sahni has been "Personnalité d'Avenir" at the French Foreign Ministry (1995) and was a Member of Mexico's Sistema National de Investigadores [National System of Researchers] (1999-2002). He serves on the editorial boards of The Chinese Journal of International Politics (Oxford University Press), Asian Security Series, Stanford University Press and Contemporary Politics (Taylor & Francis), and will join the editorial board of International Studies Quarterly in 2009. He also serves on the following bodies: Governing Body, Indian Council for South Asian Cooperation (ICSAC), New Delhi; Executive Committee, Indian Pugwash Society, New Delhi; Consultative Committee, Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), New Delhi; and Research Committee, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi. He was a Member of the Executive Committee, Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), New Delhi (2002-2008).

Originally a student of military politics in Latin America, Varun Sahni wrote his doctoral thesis on the political history of the Argentine Navy at the University of Oxford (1991), where he was an Inlaks scholar. He has written 75 journal articles, book chapters and research papers on nuclear deterrence issues, regional security, emerging balances in the Asia-Pacific, evolving security concepts, Indian politics, emerging powers, international relations theory and Latin American military politics. His research articles have been published in Current History, Contemporary South Asia and Journal of Latin American Studies, amongst others.

Professor Sahni is currently writing a book on India's external security. In recognition of his "outstanding achievements in research and teaching", the Institute for Social and Economic Change and the Indian Council of Social Science Research have conferred upon him the VKRV Rao Prize in Social Sciences for the year 2006.

A thematic listing of Professor Sahni's publications is given below:

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- "India and the Asian Security Architecture", Current History, April 2006, pp. 161-166.
- "A Continent Becomes a Region: Future Asian Security Architectures", in R.R. Sharma (ed.), India and Emerging Asia (New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2005), pp. 80-101.
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- "The protean polis and strategic surprises: do changes within India affect South Asian strategic stability?" Contemporary South Asia 14 (2), June 2005, pp. 219-231.
- "The Stability-Instability Paradox: A Less Than Perfect Explanation", in E. Sridharan (ed.), The India-Pakistan Nuclear Relationship: Theories of Deterrence and International Relations (London: Routledge, 2007), pp. 185-207.
- "A Dangerous Exercise: Brasstacks as Non-Nuclear Near War", in Sumit Ganguly and S. Paul Kapur (eds.), Nuclear Proliferation in South Asia: Crisis Behavior and the Bomb (London: Routledge, 2009), pp. 12-35.
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- "India as a Global Power: Capacity, Opportunity and Strategy", in Indian Foreign Policy: Agenda for the 21st Century, Vol. 1 (New Delhi: Foreign Service Institute/Konark Publishers, 1997), pp. 21-42.

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