

To celebrate the Russian Diplomatist Day Ambassador of Russia to India H.E. Mr Alexander M.Kadakin hosted a friendly soiree at the Embassy. The function was marked by the ceremony of the conferment of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Sign of Honour "For the contribution to international cooperation" to veteran Indian Diplomats: H.E. Mr M.K. Rasgotra, H.E. Mr Chinmaya Gharekhan, H.E. Mr Ronen Sen.



The occasion was graced by the high brass of India's MEA, Ambassadors of the CIS countries and the Russian Embassy's top officials.

The Russian Diplomatist Day was established by a Presidential Decree in 2002 to commemorate the founding of the Russian Diplomatic Service in 1549. It was on February 10, 1549 that historians found in official chronicles the first mention of the ambassadorial order.

While opening the ceremony, H.E. Mr Alexander M.Kadakin recalled achievements of the prominent Indian diplomats.

In his words, H.E. Ambassador M.K.Rasgotra, ex-Foreign Secretary and a stalwart of international diplomacy, entered the newly constituted Indian Foreign Service (IFS) since its very inception as early as in 1949. His various postings abroad include USA, Nepal, Morocco, UK, Netherlands and France. He made a notable contribution in the evolution and implementation of India's policies towards neighbours.

It was much as a result of his efforts that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) came into existence. As India's Ambassador to the UNESCO, M.K.Rasgotra made important contributions to the Organization's educational, social and cultural activities. It is with great interest that we read Mr Rasgotra's columns in the media.

H.E. Ambassador Chinmaya Gharekhan, a legend of multilateral diplomacy, spent nearly a quarter-century in various capacities dealing with the United Nations, including the post of India's Ambassador and UN Under Secretary-General. His acclaimed book "The Horseshoe Table" provides a unique insight into the functioning of the UN Security Council. Mr Gharekhan's writings and reflections in newspapers are profound, educative and wise.



H.E. Ambassador Ronen Sen's illustrious diplomatic career, apart from Mexico, UK, Germany, USA, has a strong Russian component. He served several stints in the USSR and Russia in the 1960s, '70s, '80s and, finally, as Ambassador during the most turbulent and crucial years of our transition – from 1992 to 1998. Against all odds, Mr Sen managed to steer our bilateral relations to new heights and safeguard their warmth against the background of tectonic transformations and uncertainties.

Congratulating the recipients of the Sign of Honour, H.E. Mr Alexander Kadakin said that it would not be an overstatement that each of them "has had a unique path towards success, but all were able to achieve

glorious victories in diplomacy”. “The Sign of Honour is Russia’s recognition of your outstanding contribution to international diplomacy,” he stated. “We, the generation of change, and those young Russian and Indian diplomats who will take the baton from us, have so much to learn from the rich ocean of professional experience of the three Indian diplomatists par excellence”.

The Russian Ambassador wished Mr M.K. Rasgotra, Mr Chinmaya Gharekhan and Mr Ronen Sen good health, prosperity and new achievements in thier social and academic pursuits.

[“For Contribution to International Cooperation”. Remarks of Ambassador Alexander M. Kadakin at the ceremony of the conferment of Russian MFA’s Sign of Honour. New Delhi, 14 February 2013](#)