



**Vani Rao**  
**Joint Secretary (Americas)**

Vani Rao is a career diplomat in the Indian Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs, in which she has served since 1994. She joined Americas Division in Ministry of External Affairs in early August 2020 as Joint Secretary (equivalent to Assistant Secretary in US or Director General in Canada). Her current responsibilities include India's relations with USA and Canada. Prior to that, she was Ambassador to Finland and Estonia from 2017 to 2020, and Joint Secretary (Overseas Indian Affairs), spearheading programmes and initiatives for engagement with the Indian Diaspora.

She served from 2011 to 2014 as Deputy Chief of Mission and headed the Commercial Wing in the Embassy of India, Israel.

Other posts held by her include Director (Americas Division); First Secretary in the Embassy of India, Sweden; Under Secretary (Europe West) in the Ministry of External Affairs. Her first posting was to the Embassy of India, Mexico City.

She has an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Hyderabad, India, and an M.S. in Environmental Studies from the San Jose State University in California, USA.