

Witness Biography: *International Court of Justice*
Srinivas Kumar Sinha
Governor of Jammu and Kashmir



Background:

Srinivas Kumar Sinha, upon graduating with honors from Patna University at the age of 17, began service to his country in the Indian Army. Honored as the Best Cadet at Officers Training School, he went on to serve in Burma during World War II and in Kashmir during the 1947 conflict with Pakistan. In 1949, he had the distinction to serve as Secretary of the Indian delegation on the delineation of the Kashmir Cease Fire Line at the meeting convened by the United Nations. In subsequent years, he rose in the ranks of the military, holding key staff and instructional appointments, such as Director of Military Intelligence, Adjutant General, and Vice Chief of Army Staff, and was honored as an aide-de-camp to the President of India. Retiring from the army in 1983, he went on to become India's Ambassador to Nepal in 1990, and strengthened ties between the two South Asian nations. He left that post to become governor of Assam, a violent Indian state in the northeast region of the country. During his tenure, he crafted a multi pronged counter-insurgency strategy, appeased tensions, and won over the hearts and minds of the people. In 2003, he became the 11th governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

What he adds to the case:

S. K. Sinha plays a critical role in the case as the Governor of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian section of the region disputed between India and Pakistan. He has a wealth of experience in regards to the history and evolution of the border dispute, from his days as an army officer in the original 1947 conflict and the Secretary of the India diplomatic party that negotiated the original cease fire line. Meanwhile, he has significant experience with internal insurgency as the former of governor of the once violent state of Assam. He also has imperative first-hand experience in international relations as an Ambassador to Nepal, and most recently, by temporarily opening up the Kashmir border following the catastrophic December 2005 earthquake.

View on the Issue:

As the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, S.K. Sinha has aimed to eradicate the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir, and has overseen the construction of barbed wire fencing along the Indian side of the Line of Control, which will curtail the infiltration of separatist militants. He wishes to continue improving relations with Pakistan to prevent any future wars between the two nuclear powers. While he does not favor a dramatic altercation of the border, he aspires to eradicate the separation barrier and create a border that enables the free movement of people and goods.

Quote(s):

On the future of the Jammu and Kashmir border, S.K. Sinha said: "We are committed to borders not being changed but are agreeable to LOC being made irrelevant. Let the LOC be converted into a line

of peace and prosperity, with free movement of people and trade from either side. A solution on the pattern of European Union can provide a win situation for everyone, India, Pakistan and the people of different regions of J&K. This will enable us all to fight unitedly against our common enemy of poverty, ignorance and disease"

--S.K. Sinha in the Admiral Katari Memorial Lecture at the Defence Research and Development Organisation auditorium in New Delhi on 12-19-06

Internet Sources:

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