

Bio of the Speakers

Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy

Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy is the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. A career diplomat from 1981-2018, he was India's Ambassador to Japan and Mexico, and High Commissioner of India to Belize and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. A specialist on China with over two decades of hands on experience, he headed the Indian expert group dealing with the boundary dispute and confidence-building measures. During his foreign service career, he was also the deputy chief of mission in Saudi Arabia and Consul General of India in Shanghai and Sydney, besides serving in Hong Kong and Beijing. He was India's representative to the First Committee at the UN from 1992-95, dealing with disarmament and international security. On deputation to India's National Security Council Secretariat, he anchored policy issues and strategic dialogues with counterpart organisations around the world. He has rich experience in dealing with security challenges in India's extended neighbourhood, terrorism and extremism, Indo-Pacific and maritime security, defence reforms and modernisation, infrastructure and connectivity. Amb. Chinoy contributes extensively to newspapers and journals, besides lecturing in India and overseas.

Lt. Gen. Satish Nambiar

Lt. Gen. Satish Nambiar served in the Indian Army for 39 years and retired as Deputy Chief on 31 August 1994. As Director General Military Operations, he led two Defence delegations in 1991 for negotiations with Pakistan. First Force Commander and Head of Mission of the UN forces in the former Yugoslavia - 03 March 1992 to 02 March 1993. He was Director United Service Institution of India from 01 July 1996 to 31 December 2008, and Distinguished Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses from 2011 to 2015. Lt. Gen. Satish was Chairman of the Battle and Theatre Honours Committee for the Kargil Operations. Adviser to the Govt of Sri Lanka on peace process in 2001-02. Member UN High Level Panel on "Threats, Challenges and Change" 2003-04. He was one of the founder members International Advisory Board 'Security Council Report'. Chairman Advisory Board UNITAR PTP. Member International Verification Commission that monitored cease-fire declaration of ETA. He is a recipient of the VIR CHAKRA for bravery in battle, and PVSM and AVSM for distinguished service. Lt. Gen. Satish was conferred the Padma Bhushan on Republic Day 2009 for contributions to national security affairs. He has authored a book "For the Honour of India: A History of Indian Peacekeeping" that was released in May 2009.

Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Bipin Bakshi

A multifaceted Scholar, Warrior and Sportsman, with singular achievements in youth empowerment, sailing, and national security, Maj Gen Bipin Bakshi, AVSM, VSM, Retd is also an author of two graphic novels on war heroes and holds a PhD in Information Warfare. He joined the Para Engineers on commissioning from Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun in June 1982, where he won the Sword of Honour and a Gold Medal. He was also

awarded the Gold Medal at the College of Military Engineering, Pune from where he pursued BTech in Civil Engineering and later attended prestigious courses at the Defence Services Staff College, Higher Command and National Defence College. Maj Gen Bipin Bakshi is a recipient of Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) for his service in the Kargil Sector during Operation Parakram as the Commanding Officer of an Engineer Regiment, which was awarded GOC-in-C's Unit Appreciation under his command in January 2004. He has served in the UN as a Peacekeeper in Angola during UNAVEM-III and has been an instructor in Young Officers (YOs) Wing, College of Military Engineering, Pune, Tactical Wing, School of Artillery, Devlali, and the IG Training of National Security Guard (NSG), Manesar. He has held several notable appointments including the command of an Infantry Brigade on the Northern Border and an Infantry Division on the Western Border, as well as important staff appointments four times in the J&K Sector.

The Singapore Battery accommodation at Devlali was constructed under his command for which he was awarded the Army Commander ARTRAC Commendation Card in 2005. He was also awarded the DG NSG Commendation Card in 2018, for his tenure in the NSG where he had the added responsibilities of running the National Bomb Data Centre and that of Station Commander, Manesar Garrison. During his last tenure as Additional Director General (ADG), National Cadet Corps (NCC) of the Northeastern Region, he pioneered the first-ever Brahmaputra Sailing Expedition-2019, which earned a mention in the Limca Book of Records 2019 and his contingent won the Republic Day NCC Competition 2020 for the first time among 17 NCC Directorates of the country. A keen sailor, he has won four medals at the national level in sailing and has been recently elected as the Senior Vice President of the Kite Boarding Association of India. His latest graphic novel on the NSG operation at Pathankot in 2016 featured in The Week magazine in February 2021. He was awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) on 26 January 2021, in recognition of his dedicated service to the nation.

Amb. Vijay Nambiar

Amb. Vijay Nambiar, born in Pune (1943), studied at St Xavier's College Mumbai. He was awarded the Chancellor's gold medal for his Masters in 1965. Joining India's Foreign Service in 1967 he was Ambassador/High Commissioner in Algiers (1985-88), Afghanistan (1990-92), Malaysia (1993-96), China (1996-2000) and Pakistan (2000-01). He was also Permanent Representative at India's UN Mission in New York. After retirement in 2004, Amb. Vijay Nambiar served as Deputy National Security Adviser until 2006 when he was seconded to the UN as Special Adviser to UNSG Kofi Annan. He was later Chef de Cabinet to UNSG Ban Ki Moon and his Special Adviser on Myanmar. He returned to India in 2017 and is now settled in Greater NOIDA.

Maj. Gen. Mono Bhagat

Maj. Gen. Mono Bhagat is well versed with the UN Peacekeeping system and has extensive hands on 14 years of experience, both in field missions and at the UN HQ New York. He has dealt with PK Operations in field as a Senior Military Contingent Commander, and also, as a UN Civil servant of equal status. He has practical operational experience as a Blue Helmet, having been an AOR Commander of the largest AOR ever held in Peacekeeping missions by any single Contingent, of 1,76,000 sq Kms, as also, his having been the UN Administrative and

Integrated Logistics Civilian Head, in Support of the entire mission in Sierra Leone and DR Congo.

Maj. Gen. Mono Bhagat has interacted widely with Troop Contributing Nations as UN Military Advisor, and with UN Budgetary and Aid Agencies, as the Support Head in field missions. Has managed CIVPOL, Rule of the Law, Security Sector, DDRRR, Humanitarian and Refugee/IDP matters comprehensively. He has provided military, administrative, logistics and financial advise and consultancy in his capacity as a Bde Cdr in Somalia, Military Advisor at UN HQ New York and the Office of Support Head as a UN Civil Servant in UNAMSIL and MONUC. The Indian Bde and Contingent under his leadership and command in Somalia was the only success story of UNOSOM-II, for which the Govt of India conferred the award of PVSM on Maj. Gen. Mono Bhagat in the Republic Day 1995 Honours List, a rare and unique distinction to an officer of a Brigadier's rank, for no other Brigadier after him, has been recognised as such, to date.

Col. (Dr.) D.P.K. Pillay

Col. Pillay is a war wounded and decorated veteran who is fondly remembered for his selfless action of rescuing wounded children before himself in Manipur for which he has been decorated with a Shaurya Chakra. He has held several assignments in his 29-year career in the Indian Army. Besides several field assignments, he was part of Project Beta which delivered a handheld PDA for use by the Infantry in counter insurgency operations. From 2006 to 2010 he was the Planning Officer (Defence) in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) here he handled issues ranging from defence policy and strategy, implementation of the Group of Ministers report on reform of national security system, defence cooperation with foreign countries, issues of multilateral forum. He represented India at various international forums including the UNOG for CCW conferences, UNGA, Shangri La Dialogue, ASEAN and UNEP, among others. He thereafter served as Senior Defence Specialist in the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), from 2010 to 2017. He has been a member of several national level task forces including that on Defence Modernisation and Indigenisation and the Task Force on Defence Diplomacy, which brought about significant changes in policy. He was also a member of the NSCS-nominated Task Force on Environmental Security and the anchored the exhibition with National Archives of India on "70 years of Accession of J&K" as well as an exhibition on the contribution of French to Indian titled " Rajahs, Nawabs and Firangees :treasures from Indian and French Archives ' in collaboration with National Museum of India and Alliance Francaise de Delhi.

Currently, Col. Pillay is pursuing research at IDSA and was nominated as a "Researchers who changed the world" by Routledge London. In December 2018, he was also deputed as a Military Advisor with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for After Action Review for the wars in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. He was the first Indian armed forces officer selected as an Armed Forces Delegate with the ICRC. He re-joined IDSA in May 2019.

Col. Pillay holds a Ph.D. from the Panjab University and his thesis deals with the debate between human and national security. Besides university courses, he has attended several military training programmes in India and abroad on diverse subjects relating to conflict resolution, human rights, security sector reform, humanitarian civil-military coordination, strategic negotiations, rehabilitation and relief, disaster risk management and environmental law. Some of the courses attended are: New Issues in Security course at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (2007), Switzerland; the UNOCHA course on Civil Military Cooperation at Bangkok (2014); and International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance, Barcelona, Spain (2014).

Lt. Gen. J.S. Lidder

Lt Gen Jasbir Lidder served with the Indian Army for over 40 years with distinction. He was commissioned in 3 Grenadiers in June 1969, the battalion he fought 1971 War with and later commanded. He commanded all formations in operational areas with recognition. Lt Gen Jasbir Lidder has vast UN experience in both political and military spheres. He served as Chief of Staff of UN Mission in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) in 1994-95 and as Force Commander of UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) from 2005-2008. Post military retirement, he was selected as UNMIS Deputy Special Representative of Secretary General (Political), where he served from 2010-2011. As senior most UN diplomat based at Juba, he led the UN effort in wide spectrum of conflict resolution and peacebuilding activities, importantly South Sudan Referendum, leading to birth of the new nation in Jul 2011. Lt Gen Jasbir Lidder is involved with multiple UN Offices, global think-tanks and training establishments as an expert and mentor.

Maj. Gen. Michael A.J. Fernandez

Maj. Gen. Michael Anthony Jude Fernandez, VSM is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. The Officer was commissioned in the Madras Sappers, cleared the Defence Services Staff Course on a Competitive Vacancy, as also qualified in the Higher Command Course and the National Defence College Course. The officer is a Gold Medalist in Electrical Engineering from College of Military Engineering, Pune. He has had a varied regimental, staff and instructional profile during his career in the Indian Army. He served with the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka and commanded his company in counter insurgency environment. He commanded his Regiment in High Altitude Area as part of a Mountain Division. He has thereafter commanded an Amphibious Infantry Brigade and an Infantry Division in the Desert sector.

Maj. Gen. Michael Anthony Jude Fernandez has various instructional assignments at NDA Khadakwasla, CME Pune and two tenures as a Directing Staff at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He has also served with the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Lebanon. In staff, he has been the Brigade Major of an operational Brigade in High Altitude Area, Colonel General Staff of an Infantry Division and has served as a Brigadier at the Military Operations Directorate in the Army Headquarters. He is presently posted as the Additional Director General Staff Duties at the Army Headquarters. The General Officer is a skilled

musician who plays the guitar exceptionally well. He is also an avid cyclist, enjoys golf, snooker, sailing and relaxing with a book in hand.

Lt. Gen. K.S. Brar

Lieutenant General Karanbir Singh Brar assumed the appointment of Director General of Armoured Corps on 21 December 2020. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, the General Officer was commissioned into the 68 Armoured Regiment on 14 June 1986 and later was on the raising panel of operationally raised 53 Armoured Regiment during Operation PARAKRAM. In his illustrious military career, he has commanded an Armoured Regiment as part of Independent Armoured Brigade in Holding and Strike Corps, Independent Armoured Brigade in J&K, a Sector in United Nations Mission in South Sudan and an Infantry Division during Operation Zafran. His staff appointments include Brigade Major of an Assam Rifle Sector, Colonel General Staff of a Mountain Division in East, Deputy General Officer Commanding of Assam Rifles Sector, Instructor at Category 'A' Establishment & Army War College, General Staff Officer-1 in Financial Planning Directorate, Additional Military Advisor to Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Planning & System), Deputy Director General Mechanised Forces (Equipment)/Deputy Director General Mechanised Forces (Armoured Corps), Deputy Director General at Weapon Equipment Directorate and Major General General Staff (Operations) in Headquarter Southern Command. He has also been a Military Observer in Democratic Republic of Congo.

The General Officer has excelled in all courses of instruction to include 'Best Student' in Young Officer's Tank Technology Course and ADP Advance (System), Defence Service Staff Course (Competitive), Senior Command, Higher Air Command Course and awarded with Thesis Book Prize in National Defense Collage. Academically inclined, he has the two M. Phils to his credit and has done three computer courses. He has the distinction of being part of the team which took the first tank to Ladakh Sector way back in 1987 and has also led a delegation to Bangladesh to conduct a Joint Indo-Bangladesh Seminar on UN Peacekeeping. He has also been awarded twice each the Chief of Army Staff and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Command Commendation Cards.

Air Vice Marshal M. Bahadur

Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur, was commissioned on 29 Dec 1976 with the President's Sword of Honour and retired on 31 May 2013 after 36 years of distinguished service. He is an Experimental Test Pilot from the French Test Pilots School, a graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, USA and a post graduate in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University. He has commanded the frontline 114 Helicopter Unit at Leh and two Flying Bases, Jammu and Guwahati. The Air Mshl was the Contingent Cdr of the first IAF United Nations Mission in Sudan and has been Head of Training (Air) at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. As Asst Chief of Air Staff, AVM Bahadur was the operational head of Transport and Helicopter Operations of the Indian Air Force for two and a half years. His last assignment

was as Asst Chief of Integrated Defence Staff in-charge of perspective planning and force structure of the Services.

On retirement in May 2013, AVM Bahadur joined the Centre for Air Power Studies, New Delhi where he was the Additional Director General. After eight very educative years at CAPS, the Air Marshal left the Centre to spend more time with his family, especially his grand kids! He has lectured at NDC and war colleges in India and abroad and continues to dabble in his core interests -- Air Power and Strategic Affairs by researching and writing in leading national newspapers and professional journals.

Ms. Ruchita Beri

Ms. Ruchita Beri is a Senior Research Associate and Coordinator, Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and United Nations Centre at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. She researches on political and security issues in Sub-Saharan Africa, India – Africa relations and Emerging Powers in Africa and the Indian Ocean region. She is currently the President of the African Studies Association of India, a member of the Africa Committee of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and serves on the Executive Board of the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC). She was a member of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) Task Force on Blue Economy. She was also a member of working group constituted by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister on National Blue Economy and Sustainable Ocean Development Policy.

Ms. Beri has participated in many international conferences and regularly lectures at several institutions in India, such as the National Defence College, Foreign Service Institute, Army War College and the Defence Services Staff College. She is the Editor of *Africa Trends* a quarterly magazine published by MP- IDSA and is a member of the Editorial Committee of the journal *Africa Review* published by *Taylor & Francis* and the Editorial Board of *Austral: Brazilian Journal of Strategy & International Relations* published by the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul or UFRGS), Brazil and is also a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Development Cooperation Review*. She has edited several books and published over 100 articles.

Ms. Rachita Bhandari

Ms. Rachita Bhandari joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2005. She is currently serving as Director in the United Nations-Political Division in the Ministry of External Affairs, a charge she assumed in December 2020 in view of India's membership of the United Nations Security Council from 2021-22. India's contribution to UN Peacekeeping is currently a part of her mandate. Ms. Bhandari has previously served in the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva where she engaged in negotiations on nuclear and disarmament issues. She has previously also served at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in Geneva and the High Commission of India in the United Kingdom. At the

Ministry of External Affairs, Ms. Bhandari has served in the Americas Division dealing with India's bilateral relations with the United States of America, the Indo-Pacific Division and the ASEAN-Multilateral Division.

Dr. Rajeesh Kumar

Dr. Rajeesh Kumar is an Associate Fellow at MP-IDSA. He holds a PhD in International Organization from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Before joining MP-IDSA, he taught post-graduate courses at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and the University of Calicut, Kerala. Dr. Kumar is the author of two books/monographs - *Principled but Evolving: India's Approach to Multilateral Peace and Security* (New Delhi: IDSA, 2021) and *The International Committee of the Red Cross in Internal Armed Conflicts: Is Neutrality Possible* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019). He is also the co-editor of *the Eurozone Crisis and the Future of Europe: Political Economy of Further Integration and Governance* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). His research papers and opinion pieces have appeared in leading publications including Strategic Analysis, India Quarterly, The Journal of Social, Political and Economic Studies, E-International Relations, The Diplomat, Japan Times, Tehran Times and The Outlook.