



## Gen. Saighal to deliver Inaugurating Lecture at ICG's National Lecture Series (NLS) on 24<sup>th</sup> February

General (Retd.) Vinod Saighal will deliver a lecture on **‘India’s National Security: The Missing Dimension’** at 11.00 am on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at The International Centre Goa, Dona Paula. This will be the inaugurating lecture of **National Lecture Series (NLS) on the State of Affairs in India for 2015**, which is initiated by The International Centre Goa. The lecture series will feature eminent persons and experts on various current affairs topics. Entry for the lecture series will be free and open to all.

Gen. Saighal retired from the Indian Army in 1995 from the post of Director General Military Training. Before that he had several active command assignments, including the command of an independent armoured formation and mountain and desert divisions. He has held an assignment with the UN peacekeeping forces as well as a tenure in Iran. He had served as the country’s Military Attache in France and BENELUX, also overseeing Spain and Portugal. He speaks several languages including French and Persian.

Presently he is the Executive Director of Eco Monitors Society a non-governmental organization concerned with demography and ecology. After retirement, he founded the Movement for Restoration of Good Government. He has lectured extensively in India and abroad on several burning issues of the day. Vinod Saighal was invited to join the ‘Institutional Advisory Board’ of USFSS (US Federation of Scientists and Scholars) in 2000.

He is international consultant since 1995 with the prestigious French think tank Centre d’Etude et de Prospective Strategique (CEPS) as well as on the Institutional Advisory Board of an Italian Publication Geopolitica. He was a special invitee of the Chinese Medical Association as keynote presenter for the final plenary session of the 16th World Conference of IPPNW (International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War) in Beijing in 2004. He is the author of the internationally acclaimed book ‘Third Millennium Equipoise’. Additionally, he has authored Restructuring South Asian Security; Restructuring Pakistan; Dealing with Global Terrorism: The Way Forward; Global Security Paradoxes: 2000-2020; and Revitalising Indian Democracy. His first book was selected at the Caracas International Book Fair in November 2008 for a Spanish edition (title: Equilibrio en el Tercer Milenio).

During the lecture Gen. Saighal will concentrate on those dimensions of national security that have not

received the focused attention that they deserved; in fact the one that largely overlooked. It is conceivable that their impact on the geostrategic aspect of national security were imperfectly understood, leading in turn, to a country with the size and potential of India punching below its weight in international fora and in spite of four military victories over its troublesome neighbour to the west, still remaining highly vulnerable to external as well as internal threats emanating from that single source.

New threats have emerged that have created global turbulence. These include, inter alia, the spectacular geographic spread of Daesh (or ISIS) and its siren call to young adherents of their faith around the world, the gruesome attack on a French publication in the heart of Paris, the growing cyber threat for which India is woefully unprepared and much else on which India's response patterns have yet to be shaped and skills yet to be honed at par with the leading nations of the world. That internal security has not been dealt with adequately and some of the urgent changes that will have to be made to tackle the growing menace will also be addressed by the speaker.

**Ends**

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