

## **Report on 5th Jasjit Singh Memorial Lecture on 28 July 2022**

**Welcome Remarks:** Air Marshal Anil Chopra PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd), Director General, CAPS

**Remarks by Session Chair:** Shri. MK Rasgotra, Chairman, Forum for National Security Studies (FNSS)

**Memorial Lecture:** Shri. Shyam Saran, Former Foreign Secretary

**Vote of Thanks:** Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (Retd), Additional Director General, CAPS

**Venue:** Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park

Centre for Airpower Studies organises a national security talk every year to commemorate its founder, Air Commodore Jasjit Singh's vision and contribution to India's national security. India's national security concept has changed profoundly from the cold war to the twenty-first century, especially after the Kargil conflict. The Kargil Review Committee proposed a synchronised security strategy by coordinating various agencies to deal with future threats, and some of the recommendations have been implemented so far. However, India still lacks a cohesive national security strategy to deal with multifaceted threats facing the nation. The 2022 edition of the '*Jasjit Singh Memorial Lecture*' was given by Shri. Shyam Saran, on '*Why India Needs a National Security Strategy*'.

In his introductory remarks, Shri. Rasgotra opined that there was a time security and strategy was largely commented on by the scholars from the West while the East tended to follow or interpret the western notions on national security strategy. However, eminent scholars like K Subramaniam and Air Cmde Jasjit Singh have given a new direction for Indian strategic thinking and helped in laying the foundation for India's nuclear strategy by giving it a conceptual and ideational framework including No-First Use (NFU), minimum credible deterrence, and the quantum of capability against China.

In his extensive analysis of the requirements for a national security strategy, Shri. Shyam Saran stated that the first and foremost priority of the nation-state is to secure the territorial integrity and well-being of the people. He further outlined the rationale behind the need for a cohesive national security strategy for India which includes effective utilisation of national resources and coordination of various organs of the state, India's complex relations with great powers, and various security challenges India faces both external and internal, real and a broad political and social cohesion, and to provide a roadmap for the future.

A national security strategy (NSS) can give awareness to the organisation about the challenges and responses available. An NSS would also make the nation accountable. It also facilitates harmonious functioning of its three services- the Army, Navy, and the Air Force - for broader national security interests and helps enhance national defence. Many attempts earlier have been made to formulate a comprehensive national security strategy and even a draft report was also prepared.

Besides national defence, an NSS has to address various new challenges such as ecological sustainability, climate change, minimum standard of living, and other forms of non-traditional security challenges. It has to consider the constitution as the base which is a citizen-centric document. Shri. Saran argued that ad-hoc decision-making is a luxury but a disaster from a long-term perspective, so an NSS should also be a vision document for the future which has to be publically announced and stand for open debate.