

*The Peninsula Foundation & DODASS, University of Madras*

*Seminar*

# *Liberating Bangladesh: India's Finest Moment*

*Commemorating 50 years of India's victory in 1971*

*Chief Guest: Lt Gen A Arun YSM SM VSM, GOC, Dakshin Bharat Area*

*Special Address: Professor Dr S Gowri, Vice Chancellor, University of Madras*

*Panel Discussion – India's Just War: Looking at Achievements and Lessons*

*22 December, 2021 (Wednesday)*

*10:30 AM – 1:00 PM IST*

*Venue: Department of Defence and Strategic Studies (DODASS)*

*University of Madras, Chennai*

## Program Schedule

- 10:30 AM - 10:38 AM IST** ***Welcome Address***  
*Prof Utham Jamadgini, Head Of Department - DODASS, University of Madras*
- 10:40 AM - 10:50 AM IST** ***President's Address***  
*Air Marshal M Matheswaran AVSM VM PhD (Retd), President - The Peninsula Foundation*
- 10:50 AM - 11:00 AM IST** ***Special Address***  
*Professor Dr S Gowri, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras*
- 11:05 AM - 11:25 AM IST** ***Keynote Address by Chief Guest***  
*Lt Gen A Arun YSM SM VSM, GOC, Dakshin Bharat Area*
- 11:25 AM - 11:35 AM IST** ***Felicitations***
- 11:35 AM - 11:40 AM IST** ***Vote of Thanks***  
*Dr M Venkataraman, Assistant Professor - DODASS, University of Madras*
- 11:40 AM - 11:55 AM IST** ***Coffee Break***

## Program Schedule

11:55 AM - 12:55 PM IST

### *Panel Discussion*

*India's Just War: Looking at Achievements and Lesson*

### *Distinguished Panelists:*

*Lt Gen P R Shankar PVSM AVSM VSM (Retd)*

*Professor - IIT Madras, Former Director-General of Artillery*

*Cmde R S Vasan (Retd)*

*Secretary and Director- C3S India, Former Regional Commander - CG Region (East)*

*Ambassador M Ganapathi IFS (Retd)*

*Former Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, GOI*

*Moderator:*

*Air Marshal M Matheswaran AVSM VM PhD (Retd)*

*President, The Peninsula Foundation*

12:55 PM - 01:00 PM IST

### *Vote of Thanks*

## About the Chief Guest



### ***Lt Gen A Arun YSM SM VSM***

*General Officer Commanding, Dakshin Bharat Area*

Lt. Gen A Arun is currently the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Dakshin Bharat Area. He earlier served as the Director-General of Strategic Planning at the Indian Army Headquarters. The General joined the National Defence Academy in 1982 and was commissioned into 8 Grenadiers in 1985. He is also a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, Center for Defence and Strategic Studies, Canberra and National Defence College, New Delhi.

His roles include commanding a Rashtriya Rifles Battalion in Pulwama (Jammu & Kashmir), commanding of Rashtriya Rifles Sector in Handwara and a mountain division in North East India. The General is a recipient of the Sena Medal for gallantry, Yudh Seva Medal for outstanding leadership in conflict, the Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished leadership and outstanding service. He has also received the Chief of Army Staff's commendation four times. He has served abroad in Cambodia, Sierra Leone and has attended the senior mission leaders course conducted by United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

## About the Vice-Chancellor



### *Professor Dr S Gowri*

*Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras*

Dr. S. Gowri was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras on 20, August 2020. Dr. S. Gowri graduated BE degree in Mechanical Engineering from Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai in 1980 and earned his M. Tech degree and PhD from IIT Madras. He was also a post-doctoral fellow at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore. His areas of interest include Technical Education System Development, Precision Machining, Rapid prototyping, FEA, Biomedical Engineering, Medical Image Analysis and Shape Memory Alloys. Dr. S. Gowri has a rich teaching experience of 37 years and has served as the director of the Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC), an inter-university centre of UGC at Anna University. He was also an honorary professor in the Department of Manufacturing Engineering, Anna University, and was working as a visiting professor at NTU and other universities.

## About the Panelists



### ***Lt Gen P R Shankar PVSM AVSM VSM (Retd)***

*Professor - IIT Madras, Former Director-General of Artillery*

Retired as Director-General of Artillery, Indian Army, Lt. Gen. Shankar has vast operational experience and has held many important command, staff and instructional appointments in the Army. An alumnus of Defence Services Staff College Wellington, Army War College Mhow, Naval Post Graduate School Monterrey and National Defence College Delhi, he gave great impetus to the modernization of Artillery through indigenization. He has a deep understanding and experience of successful defence planning and acquisition spanning over a decade. Major Gun projects like the 155mm Dhanush, M777 ULH and k9 Vajra, Rocket and Missile projects related to Pinaka, Brahmos and, Grad BM21, surveillance projects like Swati WLR and some ammunition projects came to fruition due to his efforts.

## About the Panelists



### ***Cmde R S Vasan (Retd)***

***Secretary and Director - C3S India, Former Regional Commander - CG Region (East)***

**An Alumnus of the DSSC, the Naval War College and the International Visitor Leadership Programme, Commodore Vasan has a distinguished service of over 34 years in the Navy and the Coast Guard. His appointments include command of warships, two major air stations and a maritime air squadron. He has participated both in the 1971 war and IPKF operations. He was an instructor at the Naval War College, India. Prior to retirement, he was the Regional Commander of the ICG Region East overseeing EEZ Patrol, SAR, Anti-Piracy, Fisheries protection, Maritime Border Control, Marine Pollution prevention and other maritime tasks in the Bay of Bengal.**

**He is presently the DG of the C3S India, the Regional Director of the NMF, Tamil Nadu and the President of the Navy Foundation Chennai Chapter. He is also a visiting faculty at the IMU, Academy of Maritime Education and Training, Great Lakes Institute of Management and Hindustan Institute of Engineering Technology. He is also on the Board of Advisors at the Madras University, the Stella Maris College and the Puducherry University. He has many publications to his credit and is available at <https://centerforasiastudies.academia.edu/SeshadriVasan>.**

## About the Panelists



### ***Ambassador M Ganapathi, IFS (Retd)***

*Former Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, GOI*

Ambassador M Ganapathi joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1975. In the course of his diplomatic career, he has held a wide range of overseas assignments. He has served in Indian Diplomatic Missions in Moscow (USSR; 1977-78); Sofia (1978-82); Singapore (1982-82); London (1988-91 as Counsellor); Belgrade (1991-93 as Counsellor/Charge D'Affaires); Moscow (Russian Federation; 1994-98 as Counsellor/Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission); Sydney (2001-2005; as Consul General of India) and Kuwait (2005-2008; as Ambassador).

He has also served in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi from 1985-88 [as Deputy Secretary (ASEAN and Pacific)/Private Secretary to Minister of State for External Affairs/ Private Secretary to Minister of State for Finance)]; and from 1998-2001 [as Joint Secretary, Foreign Service Institute (1998) and Joint Secretary (Europe East (1999-2001))]. High Commissioner Ganapathi took up his assignment as High Commissioner of India in Mauritius on September 9, 2008 and retired as Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs. He is currently a Member of the Chennai Centre for China Studies.



## *About the Moderator*



### *Air Marshal M Matheswaran AVSM VM PhD (Retd)*

*President, The Peninsula Foundation*

Air Marshal M Matheswaran is an Indian Air Force veteran with 39 years of active service. He is the founder-President of The Peninsula Foundation. He is the former Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff responsible for Policy, Plans, and Force Development. The Air Marshal is a recipient of Presidential Awards – AVSM (Ati Vishisht Seva Medal) and VM (Vayu Sena Medal) and a Commendation by the Chief of Air Staff.

*Venue: Department of Defence and Strategic Studies (DODASS)  
University of Madras, Chennai*

