

**GCSP Public Discussion with Ambassador Santosh Jha, Head of Policy
Planning & Research Division, Ministry of External Affairs of India**

Political Changes; Economic Uncertainties

Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Thursday, 23 February 2017 from 13:30 to 14:30

7th floor Library Room

We are pleased to invite you to a Public Discussion on **“Political Changes; Economics Uncertainties”** organised jointly by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament.

A post-Brexit Europe, a U.S. that puts ‘America First’ and an Asia roiled by sharpening power differentials and maritime disputes. Following two recent international gatherings on geopolitics (Raisina Dialogue) and geo-economics (Gateway of India Dialogue) in India, which he helped put together, Ambassador Santosh Jha, the head of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs’ Policy Planning & Research Division, discusses how India views the recent dramatic changes in the global landscape. India’s ‘Act East’ policy, the dramatic upturn in its relations with the Gulf, its burgeoning partnership with the U.S., its traditional close partnerships with Russia and France, its strategic partnership with Japan and its continuing engagement with China, the other Asian giant, give it a unique perch from where to look at the evolving geostrategic scenario.

Panelist

Ambassador Santosh Jha, Head of Policy Planning & Research Division, Ministry of External Affairs of India

Chair

General (Rtd) Philippe Meyer, Acting Deputy Director, Geneva Centre for Security Policy



#GCSPDiscussion

Speakers Biographies

Ambassador Santosh Jha



Santosh Jha was born on 18 December 1966. He graduated from Delhi University in 1988 with History as his main subject. He also has a Masters Degree in Medieval Indian History from Delhi University.

Mr Jha joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1993.

During his over two decades in the Foreign Service, he has served as Political Officer in Moscow, as Consul General of India in Vladivostok, as Press & Consular officer in New York, as Head of Commercial, Economic and Development issues in Colombo and as Deputy Chief of Mission in the Indian Mission to European Union in Brussels. Mr Jha has also served at MEA headquarters between 2004 and 2007 on the Americas Desk and between 2013 until now during which he has headed several MEA Divisions including Administration Division, the Division incharge of relations with West European Countries and the Policy Planning Division which he currently heads. In between at various times, he has also handled matters related to Counter Terrorism and India's global engagement in cyber issues.

Mr Jha has been involved with Indian delegation for negotiations of trade agreements between India and Sri Lanka and between India & EU. He was also responsible for establishing the development cooperation architecture between India and Sri Lanka following the end of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka in 2009. He was also part of the Indian team that negotiated the US-India nuclear deal between 2004 and 2007 and was closely involved with building closer relationship between India and US in nuclear, space, defence and high technology sectors during this period. In his current assignment as Head of Policy Planning Division, he has been assigned the task of drastically revamping the working of the Division and to prepare it for tasks required by India's growing global engagements.

General (Rtd) Philippe Meyer

Philippe Meyer graduated from the French Air Force Academy in 1977, and earned his wings as tactical transport pilot in 1978. He logged over 5,000 flying hours on C160 Transall and C130 Hercules, commanded the tactical transport wing of Orleans, and his flying operational career included many detachments in Africa and others in Cambodia (UN), Sinai (MFO) and Saudi Arabia (Desert Storm). Since 1993 he has been deeply involved in international relations and politico-military issues, serving in the Ministry of Defence's office in the diplomatic cell and as advisor at the strategic planning office of the joint headquarters. He was assigned for four years in Doha (Qatar) as Defence Attaché at the French Embassy and four years in Vienna as General Head Military Advisor to the French Ambassador near the OSCE. Before joining the GCSP in 2011, he ended his career at the Air Defence and Operations Command in Paris where he was Deputy to the Commander, in charge of international relations (EU, NATO).

From 2011 to 2014 he was seconded from the French Ministry of Defense to the GCSP and served as Special Advisor of the Director and Senior Defense Advisor in the Regional Development Programme. In that position, he supervised relations between GCSP and the French Ministry of Defense and developed the "Francophonie" programme. Lecturer on diplomacy and defense issues, he helped further GCSP projects in the Gulf Region and Africa.

He was appointed as COO on the 1st of July 2014.

His educational background includes a Diploma of Engineering in Aeronautics, and courses at the US Air War College at Maxwell AFB, the National Defence and Security Institute in Paris, the High Military Institute in Paris and the European Security and Defence College.