

Editorial

Dear Readers,

We are happy to bring out for you the USI Journal for the 1st Quarter of the year 2021. For 150 years the USI has chronicled military affairs, encouraged and inculcated the love for writing and reading in the officers of the armed forces, and most importantly, spread knowledge amongst its readers. Following this hallowed tradition, the USI conducts three essay competitions every year. This issue includes three prize winning essays for the year 2020.

The Gold Medal Essay Competition Group 'A' winning essay is carried as the lead article. The subject is 'Emerging Dynamics of Warfare – Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics and how India can Exploit It' by Commander Manish Chowdhury.

The next article is by a former Director USI and distinguished soldier, Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar, PVSM, AVSM, VrC (Retd). He was the first Force Commander and Head of Mission of the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), during 1992-93. With that background and his subsequent close association with the United Nations activities, he writes on 'India and the United Nations Peacekeeping' and gives out candid and farsighted recommendations.

This is followed by the Gold Medal Essay Competition Group 'B' winning essay titled 'Space the Next Frontier: Opportunities and Challenges for India' by Major (now Lieutenant Colonel) CS Chahar.

The next article 'Ski Himalaya: Making the Impossible, Possible' will greatly appeal to those who relish the mountains, especially on our Northern borders. Two veteran mountaineers, Lieutenant Colonel Harish Kohli, VSM (Retd) and Brigadier Krishan Kumar, VSM (Retd) get together to give a vivid description of the Ski Himalaya expedition 1995 which they participated in, and the former lead. They round it off with some applications to current operational requirements from the lessons learnt.

This journal carries the second article of the trilogy regarding the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) by Major General Ashok Kumar, VSM who writes on the 'Veteran Medical Care Support System in the USA: Part I'. The last part of the trilogy will appear in a future issue of the journal.

Brigadier (Dr) SP Sinha, VSM (Retd) gives an insight into the Regimental system of the Indian Army and the impact of changing values, which are inevitable, in the article titled 'Regimental Soldiering: Changing Values'. He is the author of the recently released book titled 'Traditions and Customs of the Indian armed Forces'. This is followed by an article by Ms Rachna Bisht Rawat – an accomplished military historian – who enthalls the reader with "Battle Tales" which are remarkably interesting historical anecdotal stories from the army.

The prize winning essay of the Lieutenant General SL Menezes Memorial Essay Competition by Group Captain PA Purohit on the subject 'Post-Independence India: Evolution of Jointmanship in the Military and Lessons Learnt' is the next article. The article chronicles the slow yet inexorable march towards Jointmanship in the modern Indian military. The next article titled 'IAF Transition towards a Network-Centric-Knowledge Based Force' by Wing Commander Mukesh Kumar Singh and Dr Vikas Gupta highlights the imperative for the IAF to transition towards a network-centric-Knowledge Based Force. The article is based upon a study done by the authors regarding Knowledge Management in the IAF. They write that this should be something which of relevance to the complete military.

'China's Expanding Role in UN Peacekeeping' by Colonel Shailender Arya brings out how Chinese peacekeeping efforts are intertwined with Chinese economic interests. The overall aim seems to expand Chinese influence across the world. Another China focused article is by Prof Sangeeta Thapliyal who writes about the 'Political Developments in Nepal and the Chinese Involvement'.

In a Counterterrorism (CT) environment in the rarest of rare cases a crime may get committed by a soldier. How the offender must be not spared, but those who get unwittingly drawn in the

vortex be dealt with some consideration, emerges in a personal narrative article titled ‘Standing Up for a Few Good Men’ by Lieutenant General KJ Singh, PVSM, AVSM & Bar (Retd).

In the first Review Article, Shri Prabhat P Shukla, IFS (Retd) writes about the book ‘The End of an Era: India Exits Tibet, India-Tibet Relations [1947-1962]’ by the noted Tibetologist Claude Arpi. This is the fourth and final volume in Claude Arpi’s tetralogy on India-Tibet relations from 1947 to 1962. Such painstaking research on this subject is unlikely to be found elsewhere.

In the second Review Article, Major General VK Singh writes about the book ‘Watershed 1967 - India’s Forgotten Victory over China’. He brings out why recording biased military history is a dangerous trend and requires to be controlled. It builds up a false sense of security and is professional dishonesty.

The issue also carries four short reviews of the following books:

- Jinnah: His Successes, Failures and Role in History
By Ishtiaq Ahmed
Reviewed by Lt Gen Ghanshyam Singh Katoch, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)
- Internal Security: A Psychological Approach
By Maj Gen Sanjay Bhide, YSM, VSM (Retd)
Reviewed by Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh, VSM (Retd)
- Non-Contact Warfare: An Appraisal of China’s Military Capabilities
By Brigadier Vivek Verma
Reviewed by Maj Gen Sanjeev Chauhan, YSM
- Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India): Challenges and Opportunities
By Brigadier (Dr) Rajeev Bhutani
Reviewed by Shri Gaurav Kumar

We always look forward to your feedback and suggestions which could be put on the USI blog and which we will carry as letters to the editor – a format which is not adequately used by

members or other readers. As always, the USI Journal will attempt to maintain our standards of inquisitive and fruitful research and original writing.

Happy Reading!

The Editorial Team

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