

## Editorial

Dear Readers,

We are happy to present the USI Journal for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of the year 2022. USI has been able to bring out its quarterly Journal for the last 152 years. Over the years, the journal has made key contribution in educating people on national security, defence studies, and the ongoing geopolitical situation. The topics in this journal range from international crisis such as the Russia-Ukraine war, to internal concerns like grievance redress system in the Indian Armed Forces. There are 11 well researched articles and four short reviews of recent books in this issue.

The first article is 'If Technology is Redefining Warfare How Should We Deal with this Paradigm Shift' authored by Lieutenant General PS Rajeshwar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd). The article starts off with an introduction to new weapon systems that have significantly accelerated the pace of wars and changed the face of warfare. There is a detailed analyses on the weapon systems used in the Russia Ukraine conflict, and advancements in western, Chinese, and Indian technologies are discussed too. The author stresses on the need for constant innovation to tackle disruptive technologies.

Next is an article titled 'India's Foreign Policy in Evolving Geopolitical Scenario' by Major General BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd). In this, the author highlights that at the present juncture, India is at the cusp of transiting from a balancing to a leading power. He explains that the evolving geopolitical scenario that is rife with contestation and mistrust poses strategic and foreign policy dilemmas for India. However, India has to develop her CNP and strategically configure it to promote its sharply defined national interests. In the next article, 'The Corps of Bombay Pioneers', the author Colonel Harjeet Singh (Retd) covers the brief history of the Corps of Bombay Pioneers. The article in brief covers the journey of various Bombay Pioneer units till they got merged into 2<sup>nd</sup> Bombay Pioneers and later, renamed as the Corps of Bombay Pioneers till they were disbanded in 1933.

For over seven decades, Indian defence industrialisation has aimed to achieve strategic autonomy through indigenous weapons systems for armed forces. The present government has set an ambitious target of defence expenditure of US \$5BN by the year 2024. The article 'India and Defence Exports: Prospects of India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas' by Dr Arun Vishwanathan and Mr Rahul Manohar Yelwe examines the case of indigenous LCA Tejas aircraft's capabilities and export potential.

'Sino-Russian Relations amidst the Ukraine War' authored by Ms Swayamsiddha Samal brings out that Russia and China are both flagbearers of Communism. Even though they have a shared ideology, their relations have been turbulent over the past. This article highlights the unity between the Soviet Union and China, the rough patches in their relationship, and the inevitable strengthening of the Sino-Russian relations in response to the rising west. The article concludes with an in-depth discussion on whether China's subtle change in stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict is due to 'a confused Chinese policy' or a 'show of pragmatism'. The next article, 'Indian Civilisation from the Perspective of Oswald Spengler' is written by Major General (Dr) RS Thakur (Retd) and focuses on the relevance of moral philosophy of famous German historian Oswald Spengler to Indian civilisation. The article gives an insight into his outlook on many aspects of Indian civilisation, including the imperial nature of few Indian dynasties, Buddhism and Indian philosophy. Overall, an endeavour has been made to present the history of the Indian civilisation, from the perspective of Oswald Spengler to help the Indian strategic and academic community to have a better understanding of their civilisation.

The next article is 'Reforms in the Grievance Redress System' by Wing Commander (Dr) Umesh Chandra Jha (Retd). This article explains how the members of the Indian Armed Forces have been bestowed with the right to make complaints seeking the redress of their grievances. He writes on how there is need to replace the existing grievance redress system with an effective, transparent, and non-vindictive mechanism which is a sine qua non of an efficient military organisation. The following article is titled 'Do Non-Nuclear Weapon States Carry the Fear of Nuclear Threat? An Assessment

through the Lens of Ukraine-Russia Conflict' and is authored by Ms Saanjana Goldsmith. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) came into existence in 1970 to keep nuclear checks and balances. The author sheds lights upon the NPT and its relevance through the lens of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The article further discusses Ukraine's journey from being the third largest possessor of nuclear weapons to being a non-nuclear weapon state under nuclear threat.

'Enhanced Remote Sensing Based Airport Detection: A Military Detection' is written by Lieutenant Colonel Puja Jha. Target detection is a significant area of study in remote sensing and is gaining importance in the military field. The article primarily focuses on airports, and the various interpretation keys for identification and analysis of this target in remote sensing data. The author also talks about target detection methods and the challenges faced in the detection of airports. The article concludes with a discussion on the possibility of a fully automated modern army. The next article 'How Geo-Strategy, Warfare and War-Tech have Changed in 2022: A Review of Events which shaped the new Paradigms of Warcraft' has been written by Mr Shaurya Dhakate. The article provides an overall assessment of major conflicts that took place in 2022. The author's research ranges from the behaviours of nations in the conflicts to the new strategic challenges that have emerged. The author further talks about the development of various new arms, and the birth of cyber space as another warzone.

The final article, titled 'Political Failure, Military Success: Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis of 2022' has been authored by Ms Radhika Daga. Here the author covers the Sri Lankan crisis of 2022, wherein the elected government lost its legitimacy and the general public took to streets in protest and the problems faced by the Sri Lankan military to control the law-and-order situation successfully.

This issue also carries short reviews of the following books:

- Drifts and Dynamics: Russia's Ukraine War and Northeast Asia.  
 Edited by Sriparna Pathak and Manoj Kumar Panigrahi,  
 Reviewed by Mr MR Narayan Swamy

- Lucknow 1857.  
By Rosie Llewellyn-Jones  
Reviewed by Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh, VSM (Retd)
- Arms and the Woman: The Shattered Glass Ceiling.  
By Maj Gen VK Shrivastava, VSM  
Reviewed by Ms Surbhi Chakraborty
- The Pashtuns : A Contested History.  
By Tilak Devasher  
Reviewed by Dr Jyoti Yadav

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions. As always, the USI Journal will strive to maintain our standards of research and writing, and simple, evocative, educative, and pleasurable reading. The USI acknowledges the financial assistance received from the ICSSR for publication of this Journal. The USI wishes all the readers a Very Happy New Year.

Happy Reading!

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Head Editorial Team