

## Director's Page

**Dear Members,**

Another eventful year has come to an end at USI and it has been a year of great satisfaction. The President's Report for 2011, which is available on the USI website, gives an idea of our activities in brief.

Apart from our usual activities of lectures, seminars and bilateral/trilateral dialogues with various institutions in other countries, there are two events that I would like to make a special mention of :-

(a) An International Conference on "Peacekeeping Vision 2015 - Capabilities for Future Mandates" was conducted at USI from 06-08 April 2011. This was the first event of its kind and was organised jointly with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It was supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as also by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. The Conference was followed by a technical workshop to discuss the capabilities and standards for a generic UN Infantry Battalion to support inter-operability and overall effectiveness of infantry units in peacekeeping operations. A full report on the event is available on the USI website.

(b) The USI National Security Seminar 2011 on the subject "Peace and Stability in Asia Pacific Region : An Assessment of the Security Architecture" was held at USI on 17-18 November 2011. The keynote address was delivered by Admiral Nirmal K Verma, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chairman COSC and Chief of the Naval Staff. Two special addresses were delivered by Lieutenant General Tran Thai Binh, Director General, Institute for Defence Strategy, Ministry of National Defence, Vietnam and Lieutenant General (Retd) Bang Hyo Bok, President, Korean Institute of Defence Analysis, Republic of Korea. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Foreign Secretary could not personally deliver the Valedictory Address and this was read out on his behalf by Shri A Mukerji, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. The panelists included delegates from Australia, China, Italy, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, the USA, Vietnam and of course, India.

I would like to share with you the details of a project that we have undertaken at the USI recently. The project involves putting together first hand accounts of India's wars as seen through the soldiers eyes, i.e, those who participated in these wars. Since Independence we have fought six wars. The first was in 1947-48 and the last was the Kargil war in 1999. To capture a more intimate flavour of these wars and record a more personalised version of actions and events the USI proposes to publish a book that contains narratives from individual officers who took part in these wars. We would welcome contributions from all officers, even those who are not our members, so please do inform all officers whom you know.

To enable the USI editorial team to compile this unique volume we request all officers who have taken part in the wars of 1947-48, 1962, 1965, 1971, IPKF Operations and the Kargil War of 1999 to forward a record of their personal experience and the actions that they have taken part in. While not wanting to restrict your style of writing may we request that the following guidelines be observed:-

- (a) Please avoid hearsay. Be as clinical as possible while recapitulating events.
- (b) Confine to what happened as you saw it. Yes, these are your personal views and war as seen through your eyes.
- (c) Please be brief while offering personal views and comments.
- (d) Photographs and other documents/memorabilia would be welcome.

The USI will pay a modest honorarium to those who contribute. Contributions may please be forwarded by 01 March 2012 at the address given below:-

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- (b) By Fax : 011-26149773
- (c) By post : Maj Gen PJS Sandhu (Retd)  
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I am happy to inform you that like in previous years our Course Section is continuing to do excellent work. This year a total number of 1236 officers attended the DSSC/TSC Correspondence Course. 39 out of 40 competitive vacancies for DSSC were secured by the officers who had attended our course. Similarly, 53 of the 70 officers nominated for the TSOC had attended our course. Even amongst the "reserves", our candidates did very well - 20 out of 25 for DSSC and 9 out of 10 for TSOC are our candidates. An excellent show by all standards for which the Chief Instructor and his team deserve kudos.

Our Research Section (CS3) and the Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research have made their mark in research in issues related to strategic affairs, international relations, national security and historical studies. They have published 41 books on various topics between 2008-2011. A list of USI publications is given towards the end in each Issue of the USI Journal.

The stature of the USI Centre for UN Peacekeeping keeps growing each year and we are now internationally recognised as a Centre of Excellence.

It has indeed been a very satisfying year for all of us on the Staff of the United Service Institution of India. Through this column I also seek much greater participation by the members for our various events like lectures and seminars. I would like to emphasise that serving Armed Forces officers posted in Delhi, even if they are not members of USI, are permitted to attend the USI events.

On behalf of all of us on the staff at the United Service Institution of India, I would like to wish our members a HAPPY NEW YEAR. We look forward to meeting you at the USI.

*With regards,*

**Lieutenant General PK Singh (Retd)**  
**Director**