

Dear Members,

Another year has gone by and we at the USI are able to look at it with great satisfaction.. Reflecting on 'national security issues' in an ever changing international environment and nature of warfare under the constant gaze of erudite scholars, think tanks and practitioners in charge, has been an exhilarating and rewarding experience. I would like to put on record that it would not have been possible for me to keep the USI flag flying high without the active support of the USI fraternity and guidance provided by the Vice Patrons (Service Chiefs), Council Members, members of various Boards and elder members of the Institution. There can be no better goal for each one of us than to work and build on the rich legacy of USI, going back 144 years.

The Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation (CS3) has expanded on the quality and content of its research on strategic affairs. Besides conducting scenario based strategic games for the National Defence College, the three war colleges (Army, Navy and Air Force) and Foreign Service Institute, USI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with OP Jindal University and conducted two capsules on 'National Security' and 'Terrorism' for them. Twelve research projects have been completed and published by CS3. Presently, four more namely; *'PLA Modernisation and Likely Force Structure by 2025'*, *'Assassin's Mace – A Chinese Game Changer'*, *'An Analysis of the Logistics Support Chain Management of the Indian Army and the PLA'* and *'Art of Generalship'* are under print.

The periodicity of round table discussions (RTD) with eminent strategists and scholars from across the world has increased and brief reports are put on the USI website. An International Seminar on *'Afghanistan and Central Asia 2015'* in collaboration with Near East South Asian Centre for Strategic Studies (NESA), National Defence University (NDU), Washington and the 2nd Workshop on Nuclear issues jointly with the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), London were also held this year. The 5th trilateral meeting between the USI, the Vanderbilt University, USA and the Okazaki Institute, Japan was held at the Marine Corps University, Quantico, USA. The process of enhancing the scope of our research and analyses worldwide has encouraged us to formalise bilateral and trilateral tie-ups with other universities and leading think tanks of the world. The USI has also launched a new blog (usiblog.in) for interactive discussions on subjects of contemporary geopolitics, security and military affairs. It gives us a sense of great satisfaction and fulfillment when ideas and strategic perspectives emanating out of deliberations held at USI find their way to concerned authorities entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding national security and strengthening the armed forces.

The major focus of the Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research (CAFHR) during the year was on executing its programme to internationally highlight the role played by India in the First World War, as a part of the joint USI-MEA 'India and the Great War' centenary commemoration project. The CAFHR's three day international conference (05-07 Mar 2014) on this theme was the first of its kind where scholars from eight countries presented new perspectives on the subject. The inaugural address at the conference was delivered by the Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri Hamid Ansari, while Field Marshal Sir John Chapple of the UK delivered the keynote address and Foreign Secretary, Smt Sujatha Singh, IFS, delivered the valedictory address. The latest information on the Great War Project can be accessed on the CAFHR face book which is also linked to the USI website. A write up on the project is also published in this journal. Despite the intense activities carried out by the Centre, it continued its research activities and published five books during the year.

For over a hundred years the USI has been involved in distance learning programme. These have been found to be useful and have been appreciated by our young and mid level officers. With the increasing complexity and wider scope of study the role of USI assumes even greater importance, and more so in view of the fact that our future senior officers, apart from being military commanders, are also expected to be diplomats, strategists, analysts and even scholars. The importance of all round professional education cannot be over emphasised. Our results during 2014 have once again been most gratifying. A total of 1577 students attended our courses. Out of these 546 took the DSSC/TSOC Correspondence Course. Out of the 20 officers who secured competitive vacancies, 17 were our students. Out of the 239 nominated seats, 202 seats were secured by our students. And even out of the 12 reserves, 10 were our students. The results of the TSOC were as encouraging, where 57 of our students were nominated and two earmarked as reserves. A number of officers also benefitted from the three contact programmes run for the DSSC and TSOC. More serving and retired officers are requested to come forward and add to the strength of the pool of our directing staff to provide continuity to this important facet of USI's academic activity.

The Colonel Pyara Lal Memorial Library, *'a gold mine of information'* in the area of researching and developing strategic thinking on national/international warfare techniques, has computerised most of its activities to facilitate fast access of latest information to our members. A full spectrum of evolving worldwide knowledge is maintained and updated regularly by acquiring latest books and relevant study materials. The daily news/editorial highlights are being uploaded on our website.

The USI Journal, in continuous publication on Strategic and Defence Affairs since 1871-72, has grown in content and stature to draw worldwide attention through wide ranging topics by some eminent soldiers, diplomats, journalists, bureaucrats and experts. During the last five years Colonel Pyara Lal and General Samir Sinha Memorial Lectures, National Security Lectures, personal war experiences of soldiers and series of articles on 1962 (also covering the Chinese perspective) have been read with much interest. For many writers, both in and out of uniform, the USI Journal has proved to be an effective medium for articulating their views. The annual USI Gold Medal Essay Competition in Groups A and B continue to draw good response. These essays act as a barometer of the thinking of the current generation of officers on topical professional issues. We would like to encourage serving officers to increasingly put their pen to paper and try and develop strategic thinking.

The CUNPK continues with its well established training activities and conducted five national and two international courses.

The USI has been a founding member of the Challenges Forum, Sweden and the Peace Capacities Network, Norway. The USI actively participated in researching and producing the Challenges Forum book, “Designing Mandates and Capabilities for Future Peace Operations” which will be released at the UN Headquarters, New York in the presence of the Secretary General in January 2015. Similarly, the USI is actively participating in the Peace Capacities Network project to research the role of Emerging Powers in Peace Operations. We are also in touch with the UNDPKO to provide inputs for the High Level Panel set up by the UN Secretary General.

Lastly, I reiterate my request of last year to you, to access the USI website: **www.usiofindia.org** regularly to keep yourselves updated on USI events and strategic perspectives. I would also like to remind the serving officers again that they are welcome to attend USI events, even if they are not members. This would certainly help them in enhancing their professional outlook and knowledge.

I thank all our esteemed members and serving officers for their active participation in USI activities and wish all of you, on behalf of all of us on the USI staff, a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Looking forward to seeing and interacting with you whenever you come to the USI.

Lieutenant General PK Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd)
Director