

Editorial

1. The article titled “Countering Unmanned Aerial Systems” authored by Lt Gen PR Shankar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) is lead article in the current issue of the USI Journal. It is futuristic in nature. The UAVs are being used for offensive and defensive roles. The dropping of arms using UAVs, through the smuggler network across the well fenced Indo-Pak Border in Punjab signifies a new facet of ingenious use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The major advantage of UAV is that it is cheap, carries less escalation risk, and is deniable, more flexible in employment in operations when compared to conventionally manned aircraft. In asymmetric non-contact operations, deniability can become a major factor. A counter UAV system has to have three integral parts. Firstly, there must be an assessment of the UAV threat. Secondly, surveillance and monitoring of the anticipated UAV threat as it unfolds. Thirdly, capability to degrade, destroy or deter the threat from enemy UAVs. There is a need to have a cogent counter UAV philosophy, which the author has put forward in this article.

2. The article titled “Evolving Geopolitical Developments in China : Implications for India” authored by Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM and Bar (Retd), Director USI focuses on the Chinese looking at the geopolitical issues purely from the prism of their core interests. The evolving geostrategic scenario demands that Beijing focuses on the US challenge and avoids overt confrontation with India. The author has brought out that the Sino-Indian relations will continue to be characterised by cooperation, competition and conflict. India and China will compete for domination of resources, location and influence in the region. Beijing is constantly gaining a competitive advantage in the strategic balance vis-à-vis New Delhi. India should use the window of heightened strategic brinkmanship between China and US to build capacities to reclaim influence in the region.

3. Article titled “The Changing Dynamics of Global Terrorism” by Dr Ajai Sahni is very perceptive. The author is of the view that perception of terrorism as a movement against states by non-state entities using irregular warfare tactics is far from the truth. The role of sponsoring states in terrorist movements, who have benefitted has generally been overlooked and hardly any effective action against such supporting states has been taken. According to the author

Western and Arab ambitions to secure 'regime change' in Syria fuelled terrorism in the region. A number of other examples have also been given in the article. Further as long as terrorists inflict death and destruction outside the western cultures, movements are dismissed as local consequences of misgovernance or as freedom struggles. If significant casualties take place in western countries, overwhelming menace of 'global threat of terror' gets highlighted. The author is of the view that most international Islamist terrorist movements are products of acts of commission or omission by the western powers principally the US and their allies. However, according to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2019 death from terrorism came down 52 per cent from the peak in 2014. The Islamist scourge appears to be past its half-life. New wave of terrorism may arise and the coming *avatar* may be more disruptive than the past. Terrorists of tomorrow may pursue Network Centric Warfare (NCW), cyber terrorism, bio-terrorism and nuclear terrorism. Of these potential of cyber terrorism is the highest. Global cyber integration is getting augmented and smart cities are increasing at a fast pace, often without adequate protection of their cyber networked infrastructure. With an estimated 30.73 billion electronic devices now connected and expected to reach 75.44 billion by 2025, the potential for destructive disruption is beyond imagination.

4. The article titled "China, Pakistan Aerospace Connect" authored by Air Marshal Anil Chopra, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM (Retd) makes interesting reading. After creation of Bangladesh in 1971, Pakistan forged a strategic alliance with China in 1972. Today China supports Pakistan on Kashmir, Pakistan supports China on Tibet, Taiwan and Xinjiang. Sino-Pak Aerospace cooperation has been lynch-pin of their relationship. China helped Pakistan in establishing Aeronautical Complex at Kamra in 1973. Currently, Pakistan is believed to have capacity to produce 25 JF-17 ac per year. In this 58 per cent of the airframe is Pakistani and 42 per cent Chinese. Pakistan with help from China is looking for export markets in competition with India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), PLA AF has 1700 combat aircraft. In addition, PLA Navy has 450 aircraft and some more are soon to be inducted as part of aircraft carriers. These make PLAAF formidable. Pak Air Force has 20 fighter squadrons. The IAF has 30 fighter squadrons. Some defence analysts believe that to cater for two fronts, there is a need for India to eventually increase combat squadrons to around 50. The IAF requires, advanced fighters,

sophisticated support platforms and smart long range weapons. There is a need for IAF to build up force levels quickly.

Current issue of the journal has 10 articles. Abstract has been given at the beginning of each article. These make very interesting reading.

Review of the following books has been published in this journal.

- (a) Containing the China Onslaught : Role of the US, Japan, India and other Democracies.
Reviewed by Shri Asoke Mukerji, IFS (Retd).
- (b) Trumped : Emerging Powers in a Post-American World.
Reviewed by Shri Navtej Sarna, IFS (Retd).
- (c) China's Strategic Behaviour
Reviewed by Brig Vivek Verma.
- (d) Securing India's Strategic Space with valour unlimited.
Reviewed by Col Kul Bhushan Kaushal (Retd).

Major General Y K Gera (Retd)