

From Director's Desk

Dear Members,

1. The end of the year is a time for introspection, reflection and contemplation for us at the USI. I have great satisfaction in assuring you that, in spite of our limited resources in manpower and finances, we have been able to keep pace with developments taking place nationally and internationally. Whatever we have achieved during the year was possible due to the support we received from the Service Chiefs, who are our Vice-Patrons, Council Members, members of various Boards of Management and senior members of the Institution. The Report of the President of the USI Council for 2017, which is available on the USI website, gives an idea of the multi-faceted activities that we carried out.

2. The Col Pyara Lal Memorial Library is a repository of remarkable reference material and we added 735 books to it this year. The USI Journal, which has been digitised since January 2017, continues to provide members with a forum to express views and keep abreast with developments related to strategy, national security and international relations. The articles from its archives continue to be sought out by the scholars and researchers from all over the world. With online access, the Journal now has a global appeal.

3. The Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation under the able guidance of Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM** (Retd), Deputy Director Research, has created a niche for itself in the field of Net Assessment and formulating long-term strategic thought. The focus of the Centre continues to be on quality research, conduct of strategic gaming exercises, scholar presentations, publication of books and its outreach programmes at the national and international levels. Its internship programmes have gained tremendous popularity. The Centre signed four Memorandums of Understanding this year including those with the Army War College, USA and the Centre for Military Research and Monitoring, Kabul, Afghanistan. The annual international security seminar which was held for the ninth consecutive year attracted participants from twelve countries. During the year three strategic gaming exercises, two for the National Defence College and one for the Army War College, as well as seven strategic workshops for foreign diplomats attending

courses at the Foreign Service Institute were conducted. The two editions of the Strategic Year Book published in 2016 and 2017 received wide acclaim and we are in the process of bringing out the 2018 Edition of the Strategic Year Book.

4. The Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research (CAFHR), under the stewardship of Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, MBE has proactively continued its efforts to highlight the role played by the Indian Armed Forces during the First World War. This year the CAFHR was associated with conceptualising the Dehradun Literary Festival and the Chandigarh Military Literature Festival. The USI also participated in both the events. During the year, the CAFHR also undertook the Bangladesh Liberation War Museum Project and a Indo-Belgium Project under which a joint exhibition was held at the Manekshaw Centre during the visit of the King and Queen of Belgium in November 2017. The CAFHR has also undertaken a project to build an Indian Armed Forces Memorial in France for which land has been gifted by the people of France in the village of Villers – Guislain. The plans for the memorial were unveiled at an impressive ceremony on 02 Dec 2017 by the Mayor of Villers – Guislain which was attended by Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secretary CAFHR. It is a matter of great pride that Sqn Ldr Chhina was earlier awarded the “MBE” by the British Government and now the “Officer of the Order of Leopold” by the Belgian Government for his efforts in promoting a better understanding between the people of our two countries.

5. Like the previous years, the course section under Maj Gen SB Asthana, SM, VSM (Retd) is continuing to do excellent work towards the professional advancement of the serving officers and helping them prepare for their promotion examinations and for the DSSC/TSOC entrance examinations. The results achieved this year too were outstanding. The Chief Instructor and the team of dedicated serving and retired officers deserve commendation for the yeoman service that they are rendering.

6. The UN Cell of the USI which was established last year under the guidance of Lt Gen Chander Prakash, SM, VSM (Retd), Deputy Director and Editor, with the objective of addressing the policy and doctrinal issues of UN Peacekeeping is functioning very well. Our partnership with the Challenges Forum, Sweden and the Peace Capacities Network, Norway continues to be strong

and our participation in national and international events is increasing. We are partnering with “UN Women” to conduct an International Integrated Training Programme on “Mainstreaming Gender in UN Peacekeeping to End Conflict Related Sexual Violence.”

7. Major General PK Goswami, VSM (Retd), Deputy Director (Administration) and his team from the Administrative Branch have worked silently and tirelessly to support all the activities undertaken by the USI. I would like to take this opportunity to record my appreciation for the team for their utmost dedication and the excellent work done by them.

8. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent services provided by the Residency Resorts to the members, visitors and delegations. I commend the staff of Residency Resorts for their efficiency, politeness and thank them for the excellent services being provided by them.

9. Finally, I thank the esteemed members of the USI, who have been actively participating in activities organised by our prestigious Institution in the year gone by. It gives us great pleasure and satisfaction when we have good participation especially from the serving community at events organised by us. The attendance is of mutual benefit. I urge members to spread a word around about the activities planned by us and encourage others to also attend. We also welcome attendance by others who are not members of the USI.

10. May I request you to regularly access and browse the USI Website: www.usiofindia.org to keep yourself updated on activities conducted /planned. We greatly value suggestions and feedback. Should there be any, they could be conveyed to the Deputy Director and Editor by email or post. We also look forward to meeting and interacting with you in person whenever you come to the USI.

11. The staff of USI and I wish you and your families “A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR” and we pray for your happiness and good health in the coming year.

With best wishes,

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