

Editorial

The article titled “Mission Shakti – India’s ASAT Test – Strategic Implications” authored by Air Marshal Anil Chopra, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM (Retd) is the lead article in the current issue of the USI Journal. India successfully carried out anti satellite (ASAT) test on 27 March 2019 and sent a message of capability to geopolitical neighbours. India has joined group of space faring nations comprising USA, Russia and China. It is a strong military capability and showcases India’s technological, industrial and military strength. India is committed to peaceful uses of space, while trying to keep abreast with technology and steadily evolving space programme.

Cyber warfare has emerged as the fifth dimension of warfare. It has outpaced the technological developments in conventional military hardware. China and Pakistan are known to be developing cyber warfare capability. There have been reports of cyber intrusions in India from China, targeting ministries, industrial houses, defence establishments and some sensitive government offices. Article titled “China’s Cyber Warfare Capabilities” authored by Brigadier Saurabh Tewari focuses on China’s capability in this field. China has made considerable progress in developing it. India needs to develop counter capabilities as well as make efforts to maintain an edge.

Warfare has progressively become more lethal and prohibitively expensive. Sub-conventional warfare has gained prominence with increase in employment of irregular forces in conjunction with Special Forces (SF) to promote national interests. The article titled “Special Forces – Combined Employment with Irregulars” authored by Lt Gen PC Katoch, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SC (Retd) focuses on this important aspect. India has adverse strategic asymmetry in terms of sub-conventional warfare vis-à-vis China and Pakistan. India needs to graduate beyond using SF in short distance cross-border raids. To that extent the raising of Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD) appears to be a half hearted effort to bridge the asymmetry. Serious effort needs to be made to keep abreast.

The article titled “The One Belt One Road (OBOR) / Belt and

Road Initiative (BRI) of China : Security Implications for India and the Indo - Pacific Region (IPR) and Response Strategies” authored by Commander Apoorv Pathak won Silver Medal in Group ‘A’ USI Gold Medal Essay Competition 2018. BRI is a major economic project for infrastructural development around the world, which comprises “Silk Road Economic Belt” and “Maritime Silk Road”. BRI appears to be a tool to keep Chinese export led economy running. In the Indo-Pacific Region, Beijing is attempting to align economic and political interests of the regional countries with its geo-political interests. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a reflection of the Sino-Centric global order. It is becoming a classic example of Chinese ‘Cheque book’ diplomacy by leveraging debt of Islamabad to promote Beijing’s strategic interests. India opposes CPEC because of her core concerns of sovereignty and territorial integrity as major infrastructural project is to be implemented in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, which is integral part of India. Regional balancing is the best way for India to balance a rising China. Henry Kissinger through ‘ping pong’ diplomacy tried to convey that in international politics realism triumphed over idealism. However, as the US grapples with authoritative China today at the world stage, the real winner of 1970’s diplomatic coup is still awaited. BRI is the practical manifestation of the China’s confidence to realise its ‘dream’.

Current issue of the journal has 12 articles in all. Abstract has been given at the beginning of each article. These make interesting reading.

Review of the following books has been published in this Journal :-

- (a) USI Strategic Yearbook 2019.
- (b) Sino - Indian Equation Competition + Cooperation - Confrontation.
- (c) Essence of Hinduism, India’s Military Experience and Future Perspectives.
- (d) Azure Blue and Canary Yellow (62 Years of 62 Cavalry).

- (e) The Complexity Called Manipur: Roots, Perceptions and Reality.
- (f) First Line of Defence: Glorious 50 years of the Border Security Force.
- (g) The Forward Looking Manager in a VUCA World.
- (h) Tibet: When the Gods Spoke, India Tibet Relations 1947-1962, Part – 3, July 1954 – February 1957 .

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