

## **Editorial**

The article titled “US-China Trade War: From Cooperation to Containment” authored by Dr Sanjaya Baru is the lead article in the current issue of the USI Journal. The USA emerged as a global super power after World War II. Consequent to the break up of the Soviet Union in 1991, the USA has been the sole superpower globally. She will do, whatever it takes, to retain that status and prolong it for as long as possible. In the meantime, China has emerged as a powerful country and has started asserting itself. China is hopeful of replacing the US by 2050 or so as number one superpower globally. The US too has realised it. The author has brought out that the USA served notice on China that it adopt measures aimed at reducing trade surplus, it had long enjoyed vis-à-vis the USA. In September 2018, President Trump widened the amount of US tariffs by imposing 10 per cent tariff on US \$ 200 billion worth of goods from China. US-China contention and trade war has started and is likely to continue for sometime. It should be construed as an effort towards “geo-economic containment” of China’s economic growth.

The article titled “Prospects for the Quad in the Indo Pacific” authored by Shri Asoke Kumar Mukerji, IFS (Retd) is very perceptive with focus on evolving international relations. Prospects for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) amongst Australia, India, Japan and the United States have been the focus of increased attention following the identification of an Indo-Pacific strategic framework, which has been endorsed by the four countries. The centrality of ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific has been emphasised by the Quad. To take the dialogue forward, the Quad needs to urgently converge existing divergences regarding their individual definitions of the Indo-Pacific. Equal participation of all four Quad countries in maritime security cooperation is crucial for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific region. Three issues which require priority attention for realising the full potential of the Quad are the identification of a common framework of international law to uphold a “rules-based order”; implementing connectivity projects with a view to integrating the hinterland of land-locked states of Asia and Africa into the Indo-Pacific region; and integrating the

security of all the major sea lanes of communication in the broad Indo-Pacific region into the Quad's strategic footprint. Although Quad members have said, the framework is not in opposition to China, it is being viewed by some as a counter balance to Beijing's rising influence in the Indo-Pacific. This will require upholding the principle of international cooperation, so that the Quad can contribute constructively to securing an inclusive Indo-Pacific at a time of increased great power rivalry.

The next article "Changing Spectrum of Warfare Seen in the Lens of *Time and Space*" by Lieutenant General SP Kochhar, AVSM\*\*, SM, VSM (Retd) has assumed great importance during the current Information Age warfare. Time and Space are constant factors of war. These factors take variable values depending upon the nature of warfare and operational scenario. Over the last couple of decades availability of Time has got compressed and Space has widened. During the Industrial Age; emphasis was on use of kinetic weapons, leading to long drawn warfare. In information warfare, shift is towards Network Centric Warfare (NCW), use of Precision Guided Munitions (PGM), drones and Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Information highways and networks, in most cases, are getting intertwined with different outcomes. During proxy war being faced by India; both non-contact anonymity strikes and visible limited spectrum kinetic strikes are encountered. The coming era will increasingly require national level coordinated effort in waging non-contact warfare. In all these scenarios, the Time and Space factors will play a vital role.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has assumed great importance in conduct of military operations. Lieutenant General RS Panwar, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd), in article titled "Artificial Intelligence in Military Operations: Technology and Ethics Indian Perspective", focuses on the changing nature of warfare in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century driven by advances in AI technology and Robotics. These are being incorporated into various products and are likely to manifest themselves in defence systems and may usher in a new Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA). Adaption of AI based systems is expected to yield tremendous benefits in the coming years.

There is an inescapable necessity to keep abreast with developments in this field.

West Asia has been on the boil for quite sometime and, by all indications, an end to its troubles is not in sight. In the article titled “Turmoil in West Asia: Challenges and Opportunities for India”, Shri Talmiz Ahmad, IFS (Retd) takes a macro view of the events and has focused on roots of the problem being Shia-Sunni differences. According to the author; Saudi Arabia feels that Iran is fermenting trouble in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. For Saudi Arabia, Iran’s expanding influence in these countries is a “Shia Crescent”. Saudi Arabia has responded by confronting Iran in Syria and Yemen. The US has deep hostility for Iran and is supporting Israel – Saudi Arabia alliance against Iran in Syria and is pursuing for regime change in Iran. The author has opined that prospects of direct military conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran are there. India enjoys goodwill with major countries in West Asia. According to the author, India should try to shape a peace process for regional security and cooperation in West Asia.

Current issue of the Journal has 13 articles in all. 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) *Analysis of India’s Ability to Fight a 2-front War.*  
Reviewed by Brigadier DS Sarao (Retd).
- (b) *Global Geo-Strategic and Politico-Military Perspectives Through Millennia Past Vol. 1 and 2.*  
Reviewed by Professor Sanjiv Nandan Prasad.
- (c) *Neighbourhood Initiatives of the Modi Government : Challenges and Road Ahead.*  
Reviewed by Maj Gen Ashok Joshi, VSM (Retd).
- (d) *An Insight : The Iconic Battle of Saragarhi.: Echoes of the Frontier.*  
Reviewed by Maj Gen Ian Cardozo, AVSM, SM (Retd).

- (e) *The Indian Army in the First World War.*  
Reviewed by Maj Gen Ian Cardozo, AVSM, SM (Retd).
- (f) *Pentagon Year Book 2019 : South Asia Defence and Strategic Perspective 2019.*  
Reviewed by Maj Gen Rajiv Narayanan, AVSM, VSM (Retd).
- (g) *India-Uzbekistan Partnership in Regional Peace and Stability : Challenges and Prospects.*  
Reviewed by Maj Gen Ashok Joshi, VSM (Retd).

Major General YK Gera (Retd)