

Editorial

The article titled “Is Indian Deterrence Effective Against Potential Aggressors?” by Lt Gen PR Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) is of great relevance to professionals dealing with national security matters. In reality, deterrence should discourage an adversary from pursuing an undesirable action. It works by changing adversary’s calculation of costs, benefits and risks. Military competition is expanding to new domains from space and cyberspace to information and sea bed. New capabilities and disruptive technologies are making it difficult to accurately gauge the military balance of power. Besides, warfare has descended the domain of soldiers and is becoming a matter for politicians, scientists, banks and common citizens. The author has analysed the issue at length, the questions that need to be answered are – do our military capabilities and capacities prevent Pakistan from waging proxy war against us; are we confident that China and Pakistan collusively will not initiate a localised conflict against us; does China act on contentious issues keeping Indian interests in mind? An honest answer to these questions is “No” or at best “Not Yet”. Deterrence is also linked to demonstration of credible will, intent and synergy. India must rethink its deterrence strategy in changing geo-political and strategic environment.

The article “Bridging the Military Technology Gap in the Sino-Indian Context” by Lt Gen PR Shankar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) is very perceptive and realistic. The author has brought out that China has moved closer to superpower status. She has embarked on military expansion of unparalleled proportions. On the other hand, India has lagged in scale, pace and content. The Chinese aim is to seek parity with the USA. However, as a result, the gap between India and China is widening. While China has global ambitions, India’s are regional and peripheral to her borders. India needs defence technologies to deter China from crossing red lines and give it a politico military defeat if it does so. In that context, the author has carried out relative military technology domain analysis. The fact is that there is military capability and technology gap between the two nations in favour of China. Sino-Indian military conflicts are likely to take place either in rugged terrain of Himalayas or in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Both theatres are away from

mainland China. An overstretched China might not be able to deploy its full military might. China's focus has been on attaining ascendancy on disruptive technologies, which may not work efficiently in mountainous terrain. In the IOR, China will have to contend with the military significance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Overall, the Sino-Indian military geography is a technology spoiler. India needs to possess only such ability which deters China from any misadventure. China is slowing down due to ongoing US-China trade war as well as restrictions imposed by the US in ensuring that China cannot carry out Intellectual Property Right (IPR) theft of high-end technologies with impunity anymore. The BRI is also not going well. An opportunity window is available to enable India to catch up. However, there is need for adequate funding. Defence budgets need to be hiked. A five trillion-dollar economy will need more security than at present.

The article titled "India and the Russian Far East" by Dr Sanjaya Baru focuses on "Indo-Russian" relations, India's "Act East Policy" and "Economic Opportunities" in the Region. Fifth meeting of the Eastern Economic Forum was held at Vladivostok in September 2019 where Prime Minister Modi was the Chief Guest. He stressed on India's growing interest in building closer economic ties with the Russian Far East. The author has highlighted that Indian business should look beyond oil and gas and explore new opportunities in farming, mineral exploration, manufacturing and shipping.

The article titled "Competition for Supremacy between US and China: An Analysis" by Shri JK Dadoo is quite perceptive. United States of America is the sole superpower at present. However, China is catching up fast. As far as economy is concerned, GDP growth is considered to be a major parameter. The author has brought out that by 2030 China would have gained world ascendancy. The author has carried out comparison and analysis of a number of other indicators such as – Mobile phones; 5G Networks; new conglomerates emerging and making tremendous contribution to the economy; Artificial Intelligence (AI); food supply; volume of trade; development; technology; rare earth production; ocean wealth and so on. Most indicators reflect that China is making progress worldwide. However, the author, based

on study carried out by Prof Abdelal, has suggested that US should counter balance China with help from India, Japan and South Korea. Prof Abdelal's telling comment is that conscience and concessions are required to become a world hegemon and China has none. The world has to wait and watch for a decade or so to decide the next hegemon or the superpower.

Current issue of the Journal has 13 articles. 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) For The Honour of My House by Tony McClenaghan.
Reviewed by Maj Gen Ian Cardozo, AVSM, SM (Retd)
- (b) India's Security Environment : Emerging Uncertainties and Challenges by Professor Satish Kumar
Reviewed by Maj Gen Ashok Joshi, VSM (Retd)
- (c) Pakistan's Internal Security Challenges and the Army's Ability to Overcome Them by Brig Shaman Chodha
Reviewed by Maj Gen YK Gera (Retd)
- (d) When Military Wages Peace: Military Bands in Diplomacy, War and Statecraft by Dr Saad S Khan
Reviewed by Maj Karun Khanna (Retd)

Major General YK Gera (Retd)