

## Editorial

Dear Readers,

The USI journal for the 2nd Quarter of the year 2022 is here. The journal encourages and inculcates the love for writing and reading amongst the officers of the armed forces as well as the scholars of strategic affairs and spreads knowledge amongst its readers. This issue contains thirteen well researched articles, two review articles, and two short book reviews.

The Russia – Ukraine war has become a long-drawn affair. The war has brought into focus aspects related to the new emerging world order, multilateralism, collective security, nuclear deterrence, economic sanctions, information warfare, food & energy security, and above all, the conduct of war in the present era. In line with the last aspect, the article titled '*Lessons of the Ukraine War: Air Aspects*' authored by Air Marshal Anil Khosla (Retd) is the lead article in the current issue of the USI journal.

The next article is a brief history about the British Indian Army's Corps of Pioneers, which on disbandment had its 23rd, 32nd and 34th Royal Sikh Pioneers converted into the Sikh Light Infantry, a distinguished Infantry regiment of the Indian Army. This has been brought out vividly in the article titled '*Pioneer Regiments of the British Indian Army*' authored by Colonel Harjeet Singh. This is followed by an article titled '*3D Printing: Opportunities for the Indian Armed Forces*' by Brigadier Mandeep Singh (Retd). The author emphasises that it is about time that our armed forces absorb this technology at current levels and should invest in further R&D to exploit it fully towards enhancing efficiency.

*'Effectiveness of Protection Mandates in Current UN Missions: Application of Lessons on Military Force Preparedness'*, the next article, by Colonel (Dr) Kulwant Kumar Sharma, covers key lessons on Protection of Civilians (POC) from the Effectiveness of Peace Operations Network (EPON) studies from the military force perspective; application of EPON lessons to enhance the effectiveness of the military on POC and preparation of Indian peacekeepers on POC aspects. Two years plus has passed after the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, but it's still not going

away any sooner. The actions taken by governments across the world to counter infections and contain the virus's spread led to global supply shocks, especially in manufacturing; lockdowns and other containment measures were imposed causing widespread business disruption. These aspects have been well explained by Colonel Bhaskar Gupta in his article '*Post - COVID 19 Pandemic: Analysing India's Response Initiatives including Actions by our Armed Forces*'. The article also looks into the steps needed to revive India's economy.

This is followed by an article titled '*Operational Art in Peace Operations: Balancing the Peace Triangle*' by Dr Ali Ahmed wherein, a case study of the UN's Abyei Mission is undertaken through the 'peace operations' triangle'. The article postulates a 'peace operations' triangle' with peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding as its three sides. Lieutenant General Ghanshyam Singh Katoch (Retd), in the article '*Jai Narain: The Legacy of the Unit Bania and Canteen Contractor System*' elucidates on the system of Unit Bania and the Canteen Contractor in past and present armies and brings out the legacy of one such Bania.

Another article on war in Ukraine, which is among the defining events of this period and which will have a far-reaching impact on the security architecture of the world, is '*The Ukraine War: How the West was Lost*' by Group Captain (Dr) K Ganesh (Retd). The article carries out an analysis of the war in an unbiased and objective manner looking at both geo-strategic and military dimensions. This is followed by an article titled '*India-Pakistan Peace Process: Lessons from the Past*' by Shri Gaurav Kumar which explains how historically, the peace talks between India and Pakistan have not led to an end in conflict nor has it reshaped the way two countries perceive each other in the long term; however, in the short term, it has led to a decline in violence, cross border infiltration, less terrorist attacks in Kashmir and across India. The receding violence has helped India to focus on its economic and development policies.

The next in the series is an article titled '*Jammu and Kashmir after Abrogation of Article 370*' by Dr Sanjay Kumar and Dr Neelam Kumari. This article looks into all the development aspects from different sectors in Jammu & Kashmir after abrogation of Article

370 and 35A. Major General (Dr) AK Bardalai (Retd) in his article titled '*UN Peacekeeping and Conflict Management: Is there an Option for Ukraine?*' says that from February 2021 until the actual invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, there was an opportunity for the Secretary-General UN to prevent the conflict by using the art of peace-making and possibly preventive deployment with the consent of the parties. He then examines an idea to use the model of a current traditional peace operation in the context of the Ukraine conflict.

'*Nil Nisi Bonum*' — *Of the Dead say nothing but Good*' by Lieutenant General GL Bakshi (Retd) is a eulogy to late General TN Raina, the Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army from 01 June 1975 to 31 May 1978. The next article attempts to identify trends in weapon technology developments and classify countries into Type-1, Type- 2, and Type-3 on the basis of their approach in developing Autonomous Weapons and Drone Systems (AWDS). The article '*Becoming the Giants of Autonomous Weapons and Drones (GAWDs) of the World and the Implications for India*', by Shri Shaurya Dhakate, explains how UAVs be tweaked to be used similar to 'migratory birds' behind enemy lines.

In the first Review Article, Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh (Retd) writes about the book '*China Bloodies Bulletless Borders*' by Col Anil Bhat, VSM (Retd). He brings out that this is a very detailed book covering aspects of very vexed and complicated border question between China and India and gives out an historical context, the contours and evolution of the issues confronting both countries and the challenges faced. The other Review Article is by Professor Dr. G.I. Lilienthalon of the book '*Disaster Management: Optimising the Global Military Response*' by Maj Gen Amardeep Bhardwaj, PhD. The book, as per the reviewer, recommends adoption of a three-step process, based on competency-matching, task-analysis, and overview of the traditionally assigned tasks, in order to evolve a better task list for the military in disaster response. It advocates for technology preparedness as the very highest priority.

This issue also carries short reviews of the following books:

- The French Colonial Imagination: Writing the Indian Uprisings, 1857-1858, from Second Empire to Third Republic  
By Nicola Frith  
Reviewed by Maj Gen (Dr) RS Thakur (Retd)
- Rethinking Palkhiwala: Centenary Commemorative Volume  
Edited by Maj Gen Nilendra Kumar  
Reviewed by Wg Cdr UC Jha (Retd)

As always, we look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

Happy Reading!

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