

Editorial

Dear Readers,

We are happy to bring out for you the USI Journal for the 1st Quarter of the year 2022. For over 150 years, the USI has provided a platform for military officers and scholars of security studies to share their experiences, chronicle battles, analyse organisations and traditions, and write about military and national security related issues. In doing this, the journal encourages and inculcates the love for writing and reading in the officers of the armed forces and, most importantly, spreads knowledge amongst its readers. This issue comes out as the world witnesses an event which will have profound security implications in the future and about which we shall surely be seeing analytical writing in our future issues, i.e., the war in Ukraine.

This issue has a number of articles and some book reviews by serving and retired Indian officers and also an article by two army officers from Vietnam with whose institution, Institute for Defence International Relations, the USI has an association.

The first two articles in this issue are the winning entries of the USI Gold Medal Essay Competition 2021. These are 'Trends in New Generation Warfare: Lessons for India' by Colonel Prashant Misra and 'How to Promote 'Out of Box' Critical Thinking in the Armed Forces' by Commander Ankush Sachdeva. Both articles provide educative and evocative reading.

The next article is by Major General Hong Quan Nguyen and Lieutenant Colonel Huu Tuc Nguyen from Vietnam who write about 'Possible Scenarios in the Post-Donald Trump Period of the USA's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy'. This is followed by a related article, 'India-France Strategic Cooperation in the Indian Ocean: Towards a Broader Indo-Pacific Convergence' by Dr Kumari Mansi, an Assistant Professor at Amity University.

'Outer Space: Endless to Explore, Infinite to Learn' is written by Lieutenant Colonel Amandeep Singh who delves into the subject of the fourth dimension to modern day warfare — Space — which has made it imperative that Space and its dominance is thought

about, and planned for. This is followed by an article titled 'National Security Challenges and Imperatives for India's Strategic Transformation' by Commander Apoorv Pathak of the Indian Navy. He writes that the Covid crisis offers the Indian establishment an opportunity to take long pending difficult decisions towards transforming its security policy approach and undertaking structural reforms.

Recently an Afghan tweeting wryly on twitter stated, "Until yesterday, the whole world was with the people of Afghanistan on twitter, now they are with Ukraine". Lest we forget Afghanistan which has greater implications for our security than Ukraine, Ms Samriddhi Roy brings us back to our neighbourhood with her article 'We Cannot Abandon the People of Afghanistan: UN's Quest for UNAMA Renewal'.

Two other articles bring our attention back to where it is more relevant for India. Major General Vijay Ranade (Retd), who has extensive experience of the North East of India, writes on 'The Northeast: Strategic Implications of the Soft Power of the Energy Storehouse of India' while Brigadier Bimal Monga provides a well-researched and realist article on 'Impact of Chinese Activities on Brahmaputra River'.

The USI Council instituted the MacGregor Memorial Medal in May 1887 to commemorate the memory of Colonel (later Major General) Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor, KCB, CSI, CIE, the founder of the USI. The last article in this journal, 'USI MacGregor Memorial Medal – A Legacy' by Major General BK Sharma (Retd) and Shri Gaurav Kumar, briefly brings out the history of the MacGregor Memorial Medal and covers the details of the USI MacGregor Memorial Medal presentation, held at the USI on 08 March 2022, to four awardees; two from the Indian Army and one each from Indian Navy and Indian Airforce for their outstanding achievements in operational reconnaissance and extreme adventure sports.

In the Review Article, Major General Jagatbir Singh (Retd) writes about the book '1965 A Western Sunrise: India's War with Pakistan' by Shiv Kunal Verma. The reviewer states that this is a book that will be definitely treasured and valued by all those who are keen students of military history.

This issue also carries short reviews of the following books:

- March to Justice: Global Military Law Landmarks
Edited By Navdeep Singh & Franklin D Rosenblatt
Reviewed by Lt Gen Ghanshyam Singh Katoch, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)
- Chinese Geopolitics in the 21st Century: A Post Pandemic Perspective
By Brig Anand Tewari (Retd)
Reviewed by Lt Col Anil Bhat, VSM (Retd)
- The General Called Tsunami: Memoir of a Sapper
By Lt Gen BS Dhaliwal (Veteran)
Reviewed by Col Harjeet Singh (Retd)
- Modern Non-Lethal Weapons: Concepts, Application, Legal and Moral Perspective
By Dr UC Jha & Kishore Kumar Khera
Reviewed by Ms Samriddhi Roy

We always look forward to your feedback and suggestions. As always, the USI Journal will attempt to maintain our standards of research and writing, and simple, evocative, educative and pleasurable reading.

Happy Reading!

The Editorial Team

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