

Editorial

Dear Readers,

The USI Journal for the 3rd Quarter of the year 2022 is here. USI has been able to bring out its quarterly Journal for the last 151 years without a break. It has been able to make key contribution to the expanding horizon of the national security, defence studies, and strategic affairs. The Journal comes with a diversity of views from the strategic and national security studies community both from within and outside India. The issue contains 11 well researched articles, a book review and six short reviews of recent books.

The lead article, titled 'People's Liberation Army at Ninety-Five Transformation Imperatives and Ramifications' has been written by Major General (Dr) GG Dwivedi, SM, VSM & Bar (Retd). The author highlights that at Ninety-Five, PLA is on track to emerge as a modern military at par with the Western Armies by mid of the century. President Xi Jinping has initiated a path breaking defence reforms process to transform PLA in to modern military, in keeping with China's expanding global role. The author argues that holistic review of national security by our policy makers is no more an option but an urgent imperative.

In the complex power struggle dynamics for control of the newly constructed Indo-Pacific Region, South Korea and India have been playing a vital role to strategically avoid any hegemonic control of the region. With their national interest in minds, these two countries have been prioritising strategic autonomy, in turn, building foundation for a safer and hegemon free Asian Region. This has been well explained in the article titled 'South Korea as a Middle Power in the Emerging Dynamics of Indo-Pacific' by Professor Kunal Anand.

The next article is 'Learning from the Ukraine War and Applying it in the India – China Context' by Lieutenant General PS Rajeshwar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd). The article explains how the Ukraine War, in progress since Feb 2022, has affected the globe in many ways. The article elucidates takeaways from the war and how their swift implementation will make our nation, and the armed forces, much more formidable.

Dr Madhukar Shyam and Ms Swayamsiddha Samal jointly write on 'Chinese Role in the Sri Lankan Financial Crisis and India's Reaction'. The authors look at the Sri Lankan financial crisis and how the country managed to land into such a situation. The article concludes by elucidating India's financial aid to Sri Lanka with an overall analysis. This is followed by an article titled 'Net Assessment: The Art of Long View' by Major General Sanjeev Chowdhry (Retd). The article describes Net Assessment (NA) as an instrument for military strategic analysis and its importance as an important strategic tool in national security management systems. The author covers the process of NA, tools and techniques used, and formulation of strategies under NA.

The article titled 'The Corps of Sikh Pioneers' by Colonel Harjeet Singh (Retd) brings out that although the Sikh Pioneers did not have the length of service of many other regiments in the Indian Army, they saw more fighting than has fallen to the lot of many older units. The article encapsulates the history of the Sikh Pioneers from 1857 till they were disbanded in 1932. This is followed by an article titled 'Killing in the Name: The Russia-Ukraine War, Illicit Arms Trafficking and National Security Implications for India' by Mr Archishman Ray Goswami. Here the author highlights how Russia-Ukraine War has significantly expanded the size of the international arms market and thus assesses the challenges that illicit arms trafficking poses specifically for India. The article concludes with a brief series of policy recommendations for the Indian Government to follow.

The article 'Pixels Speak - 'The Visible Intelligence' by Lieutenant Colonel Amandeep Singh highlights that imagery intelligence is the science of converting information, extracted from imagery, into intelligence with respect to areas of interest. The author argues that imagery intelligence will see a great transformation in the next decade as future success will be critically dependent upon the effective utilisation of imagery intelligence and its effective integration in creating a Common Operational Picture. The next article talks on how the covid pandemic, despite all its socio-economic disruption, opened new avenues for India to chart its way towards a self-reliant and sustainable country. India opted to turn adversity into opportunity, and is, hence, moving towards realisations of Atma Nirbhar Bharat says Dr Sanjay Kumar in his

article titled 'Concept of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan and its Relevance'.

Mr Mohammed Zaid in his article, 'Perspective on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS): Employment and Legal Aspects' examines the military uses of LAWS as well as highlights arguments over the use of such systems, including ethical and legal implications. The last article, titled 'Civil Society: A New Theatre of Warfare in India's Internal Security Environment', by Mr Srijan Sharma highlights how Civil Society is being referred to as the new frontier of warfare wherein, the adversary tries to subvert the target population through psychological warfare to an extent that they revolt against their own country or start subversive activities.

In the Review Article, Lieutenant General Ghanshyam Singh Katoch, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) writes about the book 'India's Pakistan Conundrum: Managing a Complex Relationship' by Sharat Sabharwal. The reviewer states that the book takes a very detailed look with a first-person insight, covering all aspects of very vexed and complicated relationship and an intractable dispute. The author's voice is one of reason and the politics of muscular nationalism often drowns such voices in both India and Pakistan.

This issue also carries short reviews of the following books:

- Military Musings: 150 Years of Indian Military Thought from the Journal of the United Service Institution of India.
Edited by Sqn Ldr Rana T.S. Chhina, MBE
Reviewed by Brig (Dr.) SP Sinha, VSM (Retd)
- House of Terror: An Insider's True Story.
By Anwar (Ikhwan code name Umar);
Reviewed by Ms Samriddhi Roy
- The Lurking Hydra: South Asia's Terror Travail.
By Lt Gen Subroto Mitra
Reviewed by Col Shanti Swaroop (Retd)
- Heroes of 1971: The Braveheart of the War That Gave Birth to Bangladesh.
By Rajesh Ramachandran
Reviewed by Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh, VSM (Retd)

- Valour & Wisdom: 100 Years of Unparalleled Leadership.
Edited by Air Marshal PP Reddy and Mr Sidharth Mishra
Reviewed by Gp Capt Sharad Tewari, VM (Retd)
- The United Service Institution of India Strategic Yearbook 2022.
Edited by Maj Ge BK Sharma AVSM, SM** (Retd),
Lt Gen Ghanshyam Singh Katoch, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) & Gp Capt Sharad Tewari, VM (Retd)
Reviewed by Mr Vinayak Sharma

As always, we look forward to your feedback and suggestions while we continue with our attempt to maintain our standards of research and writing, and pleasurable reading.

Happy Reading!

Gp Capt Sharad Tewari, VM (Retd)
Head Editorial Team