

Editorial

The 14th Major General Samir Sinha Memorial Lecture 2016 on the subject 'Development of Tactical Nuclear Weapons by Pakistan and Implications for India' was delivered by Lieutenant General Arun Kumar Sahni, PVSM, UYSM, SM, VSM (Retd) with General Deepak Kapoor, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd), former Chief of Army Staff in the Chair on 06 Apr 2016. The full text of the lecture has been published as a Monograph and is available with Vij Books India Pvt Ltd (e-mail : vijbooks@rediffmail.com). An abridged version of the same is being carried as the lead article in this Issue of the Journal. Another article on the same subject titled 'Responding to Pakistan's Tactical Nuclear Weapons' by Dr Priyanjali Malik, an independent researcher based in London is the next article. Both the articles with slightly different nuances, taken together, would give the reader a holistic view of the ramifications of this development and the challenges it poses for India in its security domain. I am afraid there are no easy answers.

Since the beginning of this Century, there has been an increasing convergence between India and the USA in the geo-political sphere. Today, this relationship stands on the threshold of strategic partnership, though many 'ifs' and 'buts' do keep cropping up from time to time. The next article 'Implications of an Indo-US Strategic Embrace' by Major General Alok Deb, SM, VSM (Retd) carries out a wide ranging scan of this evolving relationship and identifies a few restraining factors which need to be addressed by both parties for this relationship to acquire true strategic dimensions.

Continuing in the same vein, the next article 'Militarisation of Asia-Pacific : Emerging Scenario' by Major General GG Dwivedi, SM, VSM and Bar, PhD (Retd) looks at the strategic landscape that is emerging in the Asia-Pacific, especially American 'rebalancing to Asia' and the Chinese activities in the South China Sea. The emerging scenario points to some kind of polarisation amongst the regional players and increased militarisation of the region. Needless to say, the situation is evolving quite fast and could spin out of control, unless the parties concerned step back

and agree to play by the rules. The metaphor "*He who rides on a tiger can never get off*" needs to be remembered. Interestingly, it is a Chinese proverb!

The recent elections in Taiwan, with President Tsai Ing-wen's Democratic Progressive Party coming to power has disturbed the delicate balance that had been established over a period of time in the cross-strait relations. Major General SB Asthana, SM, VSM (Retd) in his article 'Can President Tsai Ing-wen Rejuvenate Taiwan with Better Global Identity?' analyses the complete gamut of the cross-strait relations, including the stakes for the USA and what it portends for the future of Taiwan.

Coming closer home, in the next article 'Insurgency in North East India : Genesis and Prognosis' Colonel Kulbhushan Bhardwaj carries out an overarching survey of the causes of insurgency / unrest in India's northeast from time to time, some important current developments and makes a few recommendations which can go a long way in restoring stability in the region which is absolutely vital for India's 'Act East Policy' to take shape.

Internal security has been an area of concern in India for a few decades now. Everytime there is a terrorist attack, the Nation is up in arms calling for decisive action. With passage of time things tend to slide back to as they were, till a wake-up call comes along by way of another attack, but of a different kind. In the next article 'Homeland Security for India : Need to Revisit?', Major General Nitin Gadkari, VSM (Retd) looks at the complete issue of internal security and suggests a holistic approach which may require complete transformation of our existing system but may make the Country and its citizens a lot safer.

Kargil War of 1999 was in a sense a limited war but it was highly intense from the military point of view with unusually high casualties on both sides. Most writings have confined themselves to politico-military aspects of this war. In the next article 'Kargil 1999 – A Perspective', Captain Sudhir S Bloeria, PhD, IAS (Retd), apart from an overview of military operations, also looks at – how the war affected the local population, the civil administration and the ongoing counter insurgency operations in the Valley. The

author, who had a first-hand experience of the 1971 War as a serving army officer and later having joined the IAS, was the Chief Secretary of the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the Kargil War. Hence, through this article he shares with the readers the fall-out from the booming of guns and numerous war cries on those icy heights on the people of the area and the civil administration. He has also touched upon India's policy towards Pakistan all these years.

The next article, 'Segregation of Ordnance Factories from being Departmental Units of the Army to Separate Manufacturing Units – An Analysis' by Ms Somi Tandon, IDAS (Retd) carries out an in-depth analysis of a landmark development in the provisioning system of the armed forces from 1987 onwards which has had a great impact on the way the revenue budget is planned and utilised, both by the armed forces and the Director General of Ordnance Factories. It has certainly made the armed forces a little more cost conscious to try and get the best value for money

It is generally known that the People's Republic of China (PRC) soon after its emergence on 01 Oct 1949 had 'liberated' Xinjiang and Tibet, in that order, by the use of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Tibet is a vast area and its 'liberation' was a complex politico-military operation carried out by the PLA after nearly eight months of preparation and with great *finesse*. In the next article 'War of Liberation – The Battle of Chamdo (Tibet)', Mr Claude Arpi, a well-known scholar on China, has reconstructed from the Chinese sources the opening battle of the campaign, the Battle of Chamdo (Oct 1950) in which a well organised PLA force of around 20,000 adequately supported by artillery, engineers and logistics overwhelmed a poorly equipped and led Tibetan force of around 5000, scattered over nearly 750 km to guard the eastern frontier of Tibet. The result was a foregone conclusion. This battle opened the main route of ingress by the PLA into Tibet. Of course, the PLA was asked to halt after this successful battle to give time for the 17 Point Agreement which was signed on 23 May 1951 and that enabled subsequent occupation of Tibet without much resistance. It is also well known that while all this was taking place, the rest of the world, including India looked on..... but that is another story!

The last article is an update on the ongoing 'India and the Great War Commemoration Project 1914-18' which continues to give rightful space to Indian voices highlighting the contribution and sacrifices of the Indian soldier. In this Issue we carry a write-up by a veteran, Major Uday Sathe, VrC (Retd) who travelled to Belgium and laid a wreath in memory of his grandfather Subedar Shripad Hari Sathe, 'Bahadur', IMSM and was also accorded the honour of doing "the Exhortation" by the Last Post Association at the Menin Gate Memorial on 15 Oct 2015. The sense of pride felt by the veteran can be seen from the photographs of the ceremony that we carry with the piece. Read on

India and the Great War Publications			
Code	Subjects	Price (Rs) Year	
CAFHR-21	Last Post - Indian War Memorials Around the World Edited by Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina (Retd)	2000	2014
CAFHR-24	India and the First World War 1914 – 18 Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina (Retd)	2000	2014
CAFHR-25	India in World War I : An Illustrated Story (Comic) Maj Gen Ian Cardozo, AVSM, SM and Shri Rishi Kumar	99	2014
CAFHR-28	India and The Great War – Eight Theatres Booklets Edited by Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina (Retd)	2000	2015
CAFHR-29	India and The Great War Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina (Retd)	2000	2015