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EDITORIAL

On 26 April 2006 Shri Ved Marwah, delivered the Fourth Major General Samir Sinha Memorial Lecture at the USI on the subject of "Demographic Imbalance and Implications on National Security – A Management Challenge for India". Excerpted text of the talk has been published as the lead article. High population growth in India and neighbouring countries is a major impediment to rapid economic progress and to raising the standard of living of the people. It also imposes a severe strain on fragile ecology. Demographic shift is another important factor that adversely affects socio-economic stability and progress. Demographic shifts and refugee movements are a global phenomenon, with movement taking place across and within national borders. According to the author, India's problem is heightened by the fact that it is surrounded by countries with lower level of economic prosperity and standards of living. A stable social order and a cohesive society is a prerequisite for a smooth and speedy growth and development, as no worthwhile progress is possible in a fractured society plagued by conflict, lawlessness and administrative mismanagement. The author has stressed that we live in a troubled neighbourhood. Two of India's most populous neighbours are rapidly being dominated by *Jehadi* forces. Concentration of the madrassas and mosques set up with foreign funding in the border areas where demographic composition has undergone a radical change cannot be ignored. The Task Force on Internal Security had noted with concern the spread of the ISI networks in the Siliguri Corridor and other areas of the country. Political parties must appreciate the seriousness of the situation and stop playing partisan politics with it. Migrations cannot be totally stopped, but they can be drastically reduced, if all political parties broadly agree to take a united stand against illegal migrations.

While nations try to assimilate the ever changing, sometimes incomprehensive twists and turns to international politics, policy makers strive to formulate strategies for their nation's well being, based on cogent criteria. Brigadier Rahul K Bhonsle gave a talk at the USI on 31 May 2006 on the subject of "Indian Security : The New Great Game". Excerpted text of the talk has been published as an article. Brigadier Bhonsle reflects on the manner in which India was poised in the 19th Century – the period of the

Great Game when the battle was for control of the Indian wealth. The new Great Game on the other hand is a conflict over resources, energy, strategic minerals, trade, information technology and knowledge. These are all goals to be sought by the players. Today, India is one of the players. According to the author, by building economic and military capabilities concomitantly India should be able to play its destined role both regionally and as a global player. The author has stressed that the Armed Forces would have a definite role in the New Great Game. Major accretions in air and naval assets for power projection as well as control of the seas are called for. A blue water navy and a strategic lift capability would be required. These combined with the Army's special forces would add to the overall capabilities of the Armed Forces and Comprehensive National Power. These should be factored in while evolving national policy and formulating strategies.

Illegal migration from Bangladesh territory into Assam, West Bengal and Tripura, has been taking place ever since Independence in 1947. By the year 1961, some of the border districts in these States got converted to majority Bengali Muslim populations. Shri EN Rammohan in his article titled, "The Foreigners (Tribunals for Assam) Order, 2006" has traced the history of illegal migration into the area, the part played by politicians and bureaucrats and the prevailing scenario. The author has expressed the opinion that severe communal riots may break out in Assam, West Bengal and Tripura, along the faultlines between the immigrant Muslims and the local people. The sequel to communal rioting may be the eruption of a Bengali Muslim insurrection spearheaded by the Bengali Muslim insurgent groups embedded in Assam. According to the author, the likely aim of the insurgency would be to attain a homeland for the immigrant Bengali Muslims in Assam.