

Editorial

This Issue opens with the two first prize winning essays by the co-winners of the Lieutenant General SL Menezes Memorial Essay Competition 2015 on the subject 'Has Strategic Military Restraint during Most of the Last Six Decades Served India's National Interests?' Lieutenant General GS Katoch, PVSM, AVSM, VSM has concluded that the answer is 'yes' and such a policy would continue to serve India's interests in the coming decades too. On the other hand, Colonel Ashwin Baindur argues that 'strategic restraint' in Indian policy has arisen more from the default options of a non-assertive Indian state rather than as a conscious policy choice. It has served us well most of the time but it has also led to missed opportunities and has been at the cost of India becoming a great power. Colonel Baindur further goes on to recommend major reorientation of India's decision making institutions and processes on strategic issues to realise our full potential.

India's geostrategic environment and the emerging world order have often been discussed through the pages of USI Journal. In the next article, General Deepak Kapoor, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd), former Chief of Army Staff analyses the 'Challenges of a Two Front Threat' from a strategic perspective. The author concludes that this threat would remain and is likely to get further accentuated with the growing nexus between China and Pakistan; we might as well develop capabilities to not only manage but to deter such an eventuality.

The next article 'China's Policies – Their Regional and Global Impacts' by Major General Nguyen Hong Quan, PhD of the Vietnamese Defence Forces examines the recent shifts in China's policies and activities, and how these are impacting regional stability and security. As China moves to expand its spheres of influence and to break the US stronghold, it also undermines trust amongst neighbouring countries which in the long run is not likely to serve Chinese interests.

As indicated in the Ninth White Paper published in May 2015, China had undertaken far reaching military reforms and the transformation which are underway. The next two articles 'China's Military Reforms : Strategic Perspectives' by Major General GG Dwivedi, SM, VSM and Bar, PhD (Retd) and 'Continuing Evolution of Chinese Armed Forces – A Review of Recent Organisational Changes' by Commander MH Rajesh carry out an in-depth analysis of these changes and their ramifications, particularly for India. As per Major General Dwivedi, the thrust of these reforms is on how best the PLA capabilities can be optimised to further China's aspirations as a rising global power. Commander Rajesh has focussed on the 'Battle Zones' (theatre commands) which have replaced the earlier Military Regions and how this may achieve greater jointness in command, operations and combat support.

In today's world, social media has taken centre stage. Apart from transforming the world into a kind of 'global village', internet has had other repercussions too; some not to the advantage of mankind. Major General Ashish Ranjan Prasad, VSM in his article 'Combating Cybercrime' examines how this has become a part of modern day life and what all remedial measures are required in investigation, administrative and legal fields. Citizen awareness holds the key and for a country like India – it is a major challenge. International cooperation which is still in a nascent stage is another aspect that India will have to pay attention to as India still remains a non-signatory to the Budapest Convention.

Every time a terrorist strike hits India, there is a renewed interest in Special Forces operations and then it dies down. So has been the case in respect of some of the other functional commands like Cyber, Space and Special Forces. In the next article 'Special Forces Command – An Imperative for India', Lieutenant General PC Katoch, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SC (Retd) examines the concept of Special Forces Operations and the need for the same in the Indian context. He also looks at the possible organisational structure and the strategic employment of Special Forces to safeguard India's national security in a futuristic context.

It takes a long time to build capabilities. He concludes that keeping in view India security environment there is no time to be lost.

Continuing in the same vein, the next article 'Small War Big Lessons : Chechen Conflict' by Brigadier PS Mann, SM, VSM (Retd) analyses the Chechen Conflict and the Russian response to highlight the role of the Special Forces and the importance of 'Winning Hearts and Minds' in such conflicts. The author emphasises that in internal conflict situations the support of the people is extremely important in not only winning the war but to ensure peace and stability in the long run.

In the next article 'Emerging Nuclear Trends in Asia', Dr Roshan Khanijo has analysed the nuclear trends of the declared nuclear weapons states in Asia viz.; Pakistan, China, North Korea and India. The common factor that impacts these trends is China. The development of tactical nuclear weapons by Pakistan and its impact on deterrence has also been analysed. The author feels that keeping in view the emerging nuclear trends, nuclear weapons would continue to play an important role in Asian nations' security architecture. If that be so, it is important for India to not only develop credible nuclear deterrence but also to fine tune its nuclear signalling mechanism as that also forms part of deterrence.

The last piece as usual is an update on the ongoing 'India and the Great War Centenary Commemoration Project' which continues to gather momentum as we approach the halfway mark. I am happy to share with our readers that USI Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research in collaboration with Commonwealth War Graves Commission has undertaken to develop an outreach programme which would help to create the awareness in the schools, colleges and universities about the contribution and sacrifices of the Indian soldiers during the First and the Second World Wars. Together in the two wars, India fielded nearly 3.80 million soldiers, out of which over 1,60,000 made the supreme sacrifice. The programme also extends to the remembrance of

those who felt in the wars fought since Independence and helps us, the present generation, to remember the deeds of valour and sacrifice by our forefathers and feel not only a legitimate pride but also to try and emulate them in Service of the Nation.

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