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## EDITORIAL

Arms control, disarmament and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) have been issues of great concern ever since the end of the Second World War. Professor Ramesh Thakur in his article titled "The United Nations and the Three Pillars of Arms Control: Norms, Treaties and Coercion" has highlighted that the spread and enlargement of weapons and arms stockpiles has rested on these three pillars. The United Nations (UN) has played three distinct roles - processing ideas into norms and policies; a forum for discussion and negotiations; and international legitimacy for promulgation of norms and regimes and coercive measures to enforce compliance. Since the signing of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968, there was great merit in relying on an integrated strategy of norms, treaties and coercion to keep the WMD threat in check. Relying solely on coercion with little basis creates problems. According to the author the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) need to move rapidly from deterrence to disarmament in order to enhance their credentials. Retention of WMD in perpetuity by NWS defies credulity and stimulates others to acquire them. This aspect was vindicated in 1998 when the nuclear containment edifice began falling apart since the logic of non proliferation is inseparable from the logic of disarmament.

In his article titled "Europe and India after the Iraq War", Dr Hans-Georg Wieck has highlighted that the war against Iraq was not authorised by the UN. India and Europe have mixed feelings about the Bush doctrine on pre-emptive strikes and of unilateral action. It may establish a bad precedent and make war more likely to be launched. In Iraq, the US has had success as far as military operations are concerned. However, the reconstruction of the state structure, the economic and social infrastructure as well as the process of nation building are costly and complicated. Economic and financial resources on a global level are divided among leading economic centres - the US, Europe and Japan. For success cooperation is essential at various stages. The European Union (EU) in December 2003 adopted an European Security Strategy and identified terrorism, proliferation of WMD, regional conflicts, state failure and organised crime, as the key security challenges

facing Europe. To respond to these threats the capabilities to be pieced together include military and civilian capabilities for crisis management, as well as diplomatic, trade and development activities. According to the author, India is not likely to have difficulty with the European Security Strategy but may have doubts about its effectiveness – given the loose structure of the EU. India and Pakistan are in the process of improving relations. Europe could offer its experience with Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and conflict management during transition period in Eastern Europe and on the Balkans. India and Europe maintain a general partnership with a system of consultations, summit meetings and agreements on partnership and cooperation. The relations are supported by bilateral contacts with individual member states.

Major General Vinod Saighal, VSM (Retd) in his article "Preventing an Iraq in Iran" argues that the US Military is over stretched and the US economy under strain. The hunter has become the hunted. In the West Asian region there is increased hostility towards the USA. A new breed of anti American radical Islamists are on the rise. According to the author, if the USA were to intervene unilaterally in Iran, as it did in Iraq, it would face opposition from the international community. Public opinion in the US would not support flouting of the UN Charter. The world at large needs to engage the USA to make it change course in its pursuit of some of its objectives. Coopting Iran for stability in the Middle East has some merit and should be considered seriously according to Maj Gen Vinod Saighal. In return Iran would need to renounce its nuclear ambitions, be more democratic, accept existence of Israel, cease support to international terrorism and integrate globally.