

Editorial

The 20th Colonel Pyara Lal Memorial Lecture on the subject 'The Role of Higher Defence Organisation in India's National Security Architecture' was delivered by General NC Vij, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM (Retd), former Chief of Army Staff on 28 Sep 2016 with Shri Kanwal Sibal, IFS (Retd), former Foreign Secretary in the Chair. The subject has gained a great salience, especially in view of the kind of threats and challenges that confront India's national security. General Vij covered the subject in a most comprehensive and candid manner, starting with the 'genesis of the problems'; going on to 'India's Present Higher Defence Organisation (HDO) and its Inadequacies, Strategic Challenges Confronting India and Complexities of Future Wars'; and finally ending with his views on 'The Desired HDO in the Indian Context'. Ambassador Kanwal Sibal who was in the Chair added a lot of value through his very perceptive comments. The lecture was well attended and the interactive session was most stimulating.

The year 1991 will remain an important landmark in Independent India's history because in that year, under the leadership of Prime Minister (PM) Narasimha Rao, India made a great turn to break the stasis that had set in during the preceding decades as far as India's economic growth and development were concerned. Dr Sanjaya Baru in his article '1991 – Leadership and Strategy' recaptures the crisis situation prevailing at that point of time and how PM Rao managed to achieve policy reorientation to give a new direction to the Nehruvian politico – economic legacy in the changed geopolitical context. No doubt, there was deft political manoeuvring and Dr Baru through his most perceptive essay gives the reader a ring side view of the historical events of the early 1990s.

The next article 'National Perspective on Disaster Management' is based on a talk delivered by Lieutenant General NC Marwah, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), Member National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at USI on 13 Jul 2016. General Marwah outlined in great detail the kind of disasters that can occur unannounced and all that was being done at various levels at the

Centre and in the States to deal with these and mitigate the damage. One is happy to note that the NDMA has assumed a dynamic profile and has taken great strides to achieve synergy between not only the Centre and the States but also between various ministries / department of the Government.

In the next article 'The Chinese Military's Mind Set' Colonel Iqbal Singh Samyal traces the evolution of Chinese military thought since ancient times, through the early PLA days, the Soviet influence and the contemporary developments. In its historical evolution, the two strands of traditional Chinese military culture, i.e. civilisational attributes and the strategic culture have merged to give way to the modern PLA thinking. The author has also covered the recent organisational transformation that is underway but avers that the changes may take much longer than is being projected.

South China Sea continues to make news because today it is the most contested area in the maritime domain. Commander MH Rajesh in his article 'South China in Retrospect : Post Tribunal Verdict' analyses recent developments post the July 2016 verdict of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague; the dispute having been referred to by the Philippines. Of course, the Chinese response has been along the expected lines but the verdict has implications on the interpretation of UNCLOS itself and its many provisions. While China may remain in a denial mode in the short term, the 'verdict' is there to stay and will form a benchmark not only for South China Sea disputes but on the maritime spaces as a whole. It is also obvious from Chinese diplomatic and military reactions post the 'verdict' that they have taken note of it and are at pains to explain their position to the world as a whole.

Continuing in the same vein, in the next article Ms Amrita Josh looks at China, Japan and the Evolving Risks in the East China Sea, another area of contestation and a flash point between China and Japan. It is also a dispute in which the USA, though not a party directly, also has stakes. It is also proving to be a test bed at which China tries to test the credibility of the USA-Japan military alliance.

The next article 'Nuclear Deterrence and Southern Asia' by Dr Arun Vishwanathan looks at nuclear developments and how these impact the strategic balance in the region. While the countries concerned continue to send signals about their nuclear posturing there is no common understanding or even a dialogue to create a common platform at which the role of nuclear weapons can be discussed. It is also of interest that though the USA is a lead player in the non-proliferation field at world forums, they have done nothing to roll back or even limit the nuclear arsenal of Pakistan which is a known proliferator. It is a paradox of the modern day power play!

The global war on terrorism (GWOT) has been on for over 15 years but the end is nowhere in sight. Infact, trans-national terrorism seems to be becoming the order of the day. In the next article 'Trends in International Terrorism', Major General Nguyen Hong Quan, Ph D, of the Vietnamese Defence Forces looks at the emerging trends in international terrorism and its various facets, especially its fundraising methods and recruitment.

In the next article 'Audacity in Warfare: A Perspective', Brigadier Mandeep Singh analyses various aspects of this virtue which is known to pay disproportionate dividends, if followed in a prudent manner. He has highlighted the importance of 'audacity' through many historical examples and illustrations. The author emphasises that it is important to inculcate this virtue amongst the military commanders so that it becomes a second nature and for that an enabling environment is a *sine quo non*.

The last article 'Army Recruitment in Punjab, 1846-1913 : An Evolutionary Study' by Professor KC Yadav is an off shoot of the ongoing USI Project "India and the Great War 1914-18" which has succeeded in bringing to life 'Indian Voices' about India's contribution to that cataclysmic event which also impacted India in many ways. This well researched article based on many primary sources puts the events of that period in a different perspective. It emerges quite clearly that the British Indian Army which came into being during that period served the Imperial interests well, but not the broad Indian interests and aspirations.

I would also like to add that 'India and the Great War 1914-18' Project continues to gather momentum and generate great interest amongst the Indian people. A number of publications commemorating the role of the Indian soldier in various theatres of war have already been published under the aegis of the Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research (CAFHR) of the USI and some are waiting to be launched. There was a talk on the Battle of Somme by Lieutenant General Aditya Singh, PVSM, AVSM** (Retd) to commemorate the last cavalry charge of the First Great War held at USI on 14 Jul 2016 which was well attended, including many school children. A few more events are planned over the next two years. An update on the Project activities is being carried in this Issue of the Journal.

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
CAFHR-30	Les Hindus : The Indian Army on the Western Front 1914-1919 Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina (Retd)	2000	2016