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EDITORIAL

On 11 July 2006 at the invitation of the Royal College of Defence Studies, London, UK, Lt Gen Satish Nambiar, PVSM, AVSM, VrC (Retd), Director USI, delivered a lecture on the subject of **'A Role for India in the Emerging World Order'**. The script of the talk is published as the lead article in this Issue of the Journal. The author has briefly covered developments at the global and regional levels in recent years to sketch the emerging world order. The USA has emerged as the sole super power. Europe is trying to reconfigure its relationship with the USA. Consequent to the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia has suffered a loss of prestige. However, given Russia's tremendous material resources and resilience of its people, it is likely to re-emerge strong after sometime. Japan is becoming more assertive. The US commitment to Japan's security may not continue to be absolute. China has become a power of considerable stature. China is likely to pursue its peaceful rise for some more time. The UN has been marginalised and seems to be on the decline. According to the author, India's area of strategic interest extends from the Persian Gulf to the Malacca Straits and from Central Asia to the Southern Indian Ocean including all littorals. West Asia is of particular interest with more than five million Indian workers working there. In the context of the emerging world order, according to the author's perception, the USA has begun to look at India through a new prism. There is recognition of India as a market for the US products as also for sale of military hardware. The Indian diaspora in the USA is playing a significant role. There is appreciation of top class professionalism, capacity and performance of the Indian military. The US sees possibilities of a role for India as a counter to China; a partner in dealing with piracy and terrorism in the Indian Ocean and as a significant player in the conduct of peace operations for conflict management. With regard to other major players, the author has opined that Europe looks at India as a market for its products including military hardware and as an emerging player at the global and regional levels. Japan sees India as a partner in ensuring security of sea-lanes of communication in the Indian Ocean. It probably also looks at India as a partner in countering Chinese hegemony. Other countries look at India as having potential to play a significant role in the developing world. The author has stressed that the role India could play will need to be formulated under broad parameters of economic

growth, pro-active diplomacy, demography and security. Each of these factors have been discussed in detail in the Article. As far as the Indian security policy is concerned, it will need to be based on continued economic growth, maintaining adequate defence capability, making optimum use of available resources and technology; managing the nuclear dimension and development of strategic and 'technological partnerships. The author has dealt with important issues concerning comprehensive national power and the likely role for India in the emerging world order in an objective manner. The article is extremely rich in content.

The article titled **'Indo-US Relationship on an Ascending Trajectory'** by Lt Gen VK Kapoor, PVSM (Retd) and Brig Vinod Anand (Retd) focuses on pros and cons of the recent Indo-US Nuclear Agreement. The authors are optimistic about the deal going through and finalisation of American legislation for the US President to sign it by the end of the year 2006. According to them, some of the advantages accruing to the US include – increased strategic leverage in Asia; the US perception of India as a natural balancer to a rising China; big Indian market for the US products and sale of military hardware; India as a partner in dealing with piracy and terrorism in the Indian Ocean. The authors have also brought out that in the US the non-proliferation lobby has been critical of the deal on the grounds that while giving away too many concessions to India, the US has demanded less from India and that it unsettles the non-proliferation regime. Some analysts and US law makers have even sought a quid pro quo in the shape of seeking preferential treatment from India for the US defence industry and for India to identify with the US foreign policy goals especially regarding China. As per the authors some of the advantages accruing to India would include – amendment of the US Atomic Energy Act to enable nuclear commerce with India; the US would try and prevail upon the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for a change in its rules to enable nuclear commerce with India; India can pursue its energy development programmes with vigour to achieve economic development and poverty alleviation. The deal has also sent a signal to other world powers of the arrival of India as a player on the strategic scene. Softening of China's attitude towards India is indicative of this recognition. On balance, the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement is vital for both countries and the Indo-US relations truly appear to be on the ascending trajectory.