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# U.S.I. JOURNAL

INDIA'S OLDEST JOURNAL ON DEFENCE AFFAIRS

(Established : 1870)



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An Illustrated Overview

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- General NC Vij,  
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India's Maritime Borders

- Rear Admiral KR Srinivasan,  
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Evolving Strategic Architecture in Asia-  
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- Shri AN Ram, IFS (Retd)

The Sole Superpower in Decline

- Shri Dilip Hiro

Badlands of the Pakistan Border

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Challenges of Peacebuilding

- Brigadier Yogesh K Saksena

A Hero Forgotten -  
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- Lieutenant General MS Shergill,  
PVSM, AVSM, VrC (Retd)

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2007



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## EDITORIAL

Today, disaster management has assumed global dimensions. In India too, especially after the Gujarat earthquake on 26 January 2001, the matter has been receiving an ever increasing attention of the authorities. In pursuance of these efforts, Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act 2005 on 23 Dec 2005. General NC Vij, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM (Retd), former Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Army Staff was appointed the first Vice Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority, which is headed by the Prime Minister.

General Vij delivered a talk at the USI on : 'Disaster Management at the National and State Levels' on 25 July 2007. Text of the talk has been carried as the lead article in this issue of the Journal. General Vij gave an excellent expose of the present status and what is planned for the future. Though the organisation itself is still in a stage of infancy, putting in place the National Disaster Response Force has been a major achievement of this organisation.

While there is a high degree of awareness about India's land borders, the maritime boundaries receive scant attention. A talk on the subject: 'India's Maritime Boundaries with Special Focus on Pakistan and Bangladesh' by Rear Admiral KR Srinivasan, AVSM (Retd) was a welcome change. Text of the same is being carried in this issue. Rear Admiral Srinivasan highlighted the importance for India to lodge a case at the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) before the deadline of May 2009, to be able to extend its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) upto 350 NM.

A talk on the subject : 'Evolving Strategic Architecture in Asia Pacific Region and Implications for India' was delivered by Shri AN Ram, IFS (Retd) at the USI on 21 Sep 2007. Text of the talk has been published in this issue. Ambassador Ram brought out that India's 'Look East Policy' which was initially premised on economic considerations, has today assumed strategic dimensions. He highlighted the opportunities that exist



and the challenges that India is likely to face as the strategic architecture of Asia-Pacific region takes shape. China's role in the evolving architecture and its impact on India was covered in some detail by the speaker and it also aroused great interest during the question and answer session that followed the talk.

A USI delegation had visited China at the invitation of China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS) in Beijing during July 2007. A brief report on the visit and interactions with various Chinese establishments has been published in this issue. The report highlights Chinese concerns about various initiatives being taken by different powers in Asia-Pacific and in Southeast Asia.

The last article in this issue : 'A Hero Forgotten - Brigadier Sher Jung Thapa, MVC' by Lieutenant General MS Shergill, PVSM, AVSM, VrC (Retd) is a brilliant historical account which brings to light the legendary courage and unparalleled sense of duty shown by this great son of India in the seige of Skardu during the operations in Jammu and Kashmir in 1948-49. It is unfortunate that his heroic sacrifice did not alter the final outcome of the struggle and control of that portion of the state of Jammu and Kashmir passed into Pakistan's hands. However, this saga of bravery, I am sure, would continue to motivate future generations. I earnestly hope that this battle gets included in the syllabi of some of our courses of instruction as a case study on 'leadership in battle'.

In the book review section of the Journal, the last book review titled 'Partition and the South Asian Diaspora - Extending the Subcontinent' by Late Professor Papiya Ghosh, reviewed by Miss Smita, a former Editorial Assistant at the USI, deserves special mention. Professor Ghosh was brutally murdered in Patna on 03 December 2006. This book was published posthumously and sent to the USI for review by her sister Dr T Kumar, IAS, who is a life member of the USI. Readers may visit the website, "honouring Papiya" at [www.papiyaghosh.com](http://www.papiyaghosh.com) to know more of the circumstances of her death and the efforts being made by society for justice. On behalf of the USI fraternity, I convey heartfelt condolences to the family.