

# U.S.I. JOURNAL

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**JULY-SEPTEMBER 2005**

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## EDITORIAL

Shri K Subrahmanyam, in his article titled, 'Indo-US Relations in the Coming Decades' has focused on the proposed strategic partnership between the two countries. According to the author, the proposed partnership is for international peace and stability and to promote the rule of law in a globalised international community. This may turn out to be a major turning point in the history of the world. The functioning of the globalised world is based on two principles – market economy and democracy. The US effort is to bring about a change in China to make it accept democracy and abide by the rules of international game. According to the author, the US is likely to attempt to bring China round through its own relationship with Japan, South Korea and India in Asia. The US initiative to help India to develop itself as a world class power is related to creation of balance of power in Asia in which all major economies will be intensively engaging and not containing China. In the post cold war world, military containment appears to be taking a back seat. Strategic partnership between the US and India is likely to benefit both the countries. To stay competitive in business the Americans need three things – firstly, increasing amount of brain power that would sustain the American inventiveness; secondly, the ability to cut costs through outsourcing and, thirdly, a large market. India would ideally fulfill all the three criteria. Dealing with China's economic challenge rather than military challenge is the driving force behind the US interest in helping India to build itself as a world class power. The US proposals for strengthening cooperation in the fields of economy, energy and defence will have to be evaluated on a case by case basis with reference to our national interests.

Vice Adm PS Das, PVSM, UYSM, VSM (Retd), in his article titled 'India and China – a Relationship for the Future', has highlighted that after decades of tense relations, both countries now recognise that they have an important role to play on the international stage for which cooperation between them is likely to be useful. Both countries have congruent interests in the emerging political and economic order and cooperation between them can maximise their capabilities and potential. The need to put aside the



boundary dispute and to resolve it to mutual satisfaction later, is an important element of the emerging relationship. The agreements of 2003 and 2005 between the two countries, if pursued with determination, are likely to lead to fruitful results. However, reservations in both countries about the aims and motivations of the other country can only be overcome through appropriate confidence building measures backed by political accommodation to mutual benefit. The time is appropriate for both countries to chart out courses for improvement in relations in keeping with their national interests.

Nepal is a landlocked Himalayan Kingdom, dependent on India and its sea routes for trade. Agriculture and tourism are the mainstays of its economy, which have been badly hit due to the Maoist insurgency. Lieutenant General Chandra Shekhar, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), in the article titled 'Nepal – Troubled Present and Uncertain Future', has highlighted that Nepal is passing through difficult times. The King is still respected by the Nepalese people who are basically simple and law abiding but the politicians have not performed well and do not enjoy popular support, which the Maoists are exploiting to their advantage. India cannot be a silent spectator because of the economic fall out and the large scale Nepalese migration that is taking place to India. The King needs to be influenced to show moderation and engagement. India cannot suggest appeasement of the Maoists, as they have taken up arms against the constitutional authority in Nepal. According to the author, India should encourage the democratic process and respect for human rights without interfering in the internal affairs of Nepal. Recent initiatives by the USA and the UN to engage the King for moderation and negotiated solution are welcome developments. The Maoists have influence and cannot be ignored. Constructive engagement, meaningful accommodation and pragmatic understanding need to be displayed by leaders in resolving this complex problem and taking Nepal on the path of development and progress.