

From Director's Desk

Dear Members,

At the outset, the year 2016 having come to an end, I thank you for the support I received from you in multifarious activities conducted by the United Service Institution of India (USI) during the year. I would also like to put on record that without the support and guidance from the Vice Patrons (Service Chiefs), Council Members, members of various Boards and senior members of the Institution, it would not have been possible to keep up our tradition of excellence. I have no doubt that the USI will continue to receive your support and patronage in 2017 as well to carry forward its rich heritage of 146 years and in the years ahead. We, at USI on our part, will continue to strive hard to build on the rich legacy of USI. However, to do so, we will need to assiduously preserve the Institution's autonomous character which is our pillar of strength and also the basic ethos of the USI, one of the oldest think tanks in the world.

I take this opportunity to thank the Service Chiefs for their unstinted support to the USI in their official capacity and as the Vice Patrons of the Institution. We wish Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chairman COSC and Chief of the Air Staff and General Dalbir Singh, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, Chief of the Army Staff who superannuated on 31 Dec 2016, the very best in post-retirement life. I would also like to congratulate and felicitate Lieutenant General Bipin Rawat, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM and Air Marshal BS Dhanoa, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VM on their elevation as the Chiefs of their respective Services and on assuming the mantle of Vice Patrons of the USI. We look forward to their support and guidance.

The Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation (CS3) continues to work hard to achieve new milestones in the field of research, net assessment and strategic gaming exercises. I am proud to highlight that the Centre has expanded on the quality and content of its research on strategic affairs. The Centre undertook two study projects for the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) namely, "SWOT Analysis of Bangladesh" and "Scenario

Building and Scenario Analysis of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)". During the year, four Strategic Gaming Exercises were conducted, two each for National Defence College, New Delhi and Army War College, Mhow. The feedback received from these two prestigious institutions has been most encouraging.

We were also privileged to conduct a seminar at the HQ South Western Command, Jaipur on "Analysis of Growing Pak-China Linkages: Its Effects on India's National Security and Options to Mitigate the Same". We plan to build on this effort and will continue in our endeavour to spread awareness of the strategic issues to the operational and field levels of the three Services.

The USI conducted the Annual National Security Seminar on 03 and 04 Nov 2016 on the subject "Strategic Balance in the Indo-Pacific Region: Challenges and Prospects" where 26 participants from 10 countries i.e. Bangladesh, China, Germany, Russia, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Taiwan and of course, India participated. We also organised "Bilateral Security Dialogue" with Afghan Institute of Strategic Studies (AISS) in two tranches, one each, at New Delhi and Herat. These were mutually beneficial.

Taking forward our relationship with organisations abroad, a number of joint workshops with international universities were conducted during the year; namely, with Daniel K Inouye Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies, Hawaii, USA, on "*Transnational Threats and Border: Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Security*"; Korean National Defence University (KNDU)-Research Institute on National Security Affairs, RINSA, South Korea on "*Emerging Geo-Political Dynamics in the Asia Pacific Region and its Implication for Regional Peace and Security*" and International Ataturk - Alatau University, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan & Sichuan University, China. CS3 also conducted an 'Internship Programme' for Christ University, Bengaluru. The Centre regularly has students coming from various Universities for doing their internship on important strategic issues. This year, the Centre signed five MOU's with International and National Institutions. Also, four panel discussions were conducted for foreign diplomats from Foreign Services Institute (FSI). Series of lectures on strategic issues were conducted for the National Defence College, Oman. Our networking and partnership is enlarging.

Roundtable Discussions / Seminars were held with delegations from countries such as Vietnam, China, Japan, the UK, the USA, and Australia. Members from USI also participated in various international events such as the Herat Security Dialogue, at Herat, Afghanistan; 7th Xiangshan Forum, Beijing; "Taiwan PLA Studies International Program 2016" at Taipei, Taiwan; the Galle Dialogue, Colombo and the RAND-CAPS, Taipei NDU Conference on PLA in Washington DC.

The USI also came out with number of publications, including books written by research scholars, seminar books and joint publications with foreign universities. These are available with CS3 and the USI Library. This year, the USI also published a number of Occasional Papers on various contemporary issues. For the first time, we published the USI Strategic Year book 2016. It has been well received and it is our endeavour to continue the publication of this book as an annual feature. It is also our intent to make as many publications as possible available digitally. Till date, we have digitally published 26 articles as Strategic Perspective on our website and posted 122 articles on the USI Blog.

The USI Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research (CAFHR) continues with its efforts to highlight the role played by the Indian Armed Forces in the First and Second World Wars. Towards this end, it jointly organised a one-day symposium on 19 October 2016 in London, with the Imperial War Museum (IWM), the Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove, and the Golden Tours Foundation (GTF). The event brought together a steering group to discuss ways to collaborate and create a collective remembrance of the contribution of Indian soldiers in the two World Wars. This historical event concluded with a reception organised at the House of Commons where the group shared the outcome of the day's discussions with Members of the British Parliament.

CAFHR has also taken a notable step towards institutionalising a national culture of remembrance of soldiers through the 'India Remembers' project. The intent of the project is to generate awareness across a broad spectrum of society about the valour and sacrifice of personnel of the Indian Armed Forces in the Service of the Nation, both before and after Independence. The CAFHR continues to actively support quality research on subjects of Indian

military history. Recent publications include a book titled "*Les Hindous: Indian Army on the Western Front: 1914 – 1919*". This book was launched jointly by the French and Belgian Ambassadors at the Embassy of France on 22 November 16. The Centre is also assisting the Government of India in providing display material to the Bangladesh National Liberation War Museum in Dhaka.

It gives me great happiness to share with our members that Squadron Leader Rana TS Chhina (Retd) Secretary, CAFHR has been made an Honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) by the British Government, after prior approval of the Indian Government; a rare honour, in recognition of his services and contribution to Indo-UK relations and for work on the Great War Centenary Commemoration (1914-18).

Contribution towards the professional advancement of serving officers of the Defence Services has always been one of the important objectives of the USI. As far back as 1903, the Institution offered to assist officers in preparing for various promotion examinations. In 1910, we started assisting candidates in preparing them for the Defence Services Staff College Examination. I am delighted to bring to your notice that even to date, we continue to do so and the results are most encouraging. The courses run by the Course Section of the USI are well subscribed and the subscription to various courses in 2016 increased by about 15 per cent vis-à-vis 2015. The success rate of USI trained candidates in 2016 was over 88 per cent.

As was done in the last year, our endeavour this year too has been to upgrade services provided to the members of Colonel Pyara Lal Memorial Library and add new books and journals. Our library is known to be a "gold mine of information" for those who wish to undertake research on strategic and security related issues. In 2016, about 600 new books covering wide spectrum were added to the library. The daily news and editorial highlights continue to be uploaded promptly on our website.

The USI Journal which has an uninterrupted record of publication since 1871 continues to grow in content and stature and I acknowledge the meaningful contributions made by our members and other scholars, strategic thinkers and experts. I am

proud of the fact that the USI Journal finds its rightful place in the racks of various libraries and partner institutions nationally and internationally.

Colonel Pyara Lal Memorial Lecture, General Samir Sinha Memorial Lecture as well the National Security Lecture were conducted on carefully selected subjects of contemporary relevance and pitched at strategic level. These evoked great interest among both serving and retired officers which was evident from the overwhelming attendance. Their transcripts have been published in the USI Journal and are being read with great interest and the feedback from members is encouraging.

The annual USI Gold Medal Essay Competition in Group A and B provide insight into the thinking of the current generation of serving officers on professional issues and help to develop strategic thinking. The subjects selected last year were "Managing Civil-Military Relations: How to Bridge the Gap" and "Transforming Our Armed Forces to Face Challenges of Jointness" respectively. The participation in this competition was encouraging. I urge more serving officers to put their pen to paper as this helps to develop logical thinking and improve the writing skills.

Since 2015, we have also been conducting Lieutenant General SL Menezes Memorial Essay Competition on subjects related to Military History. The response has been most encouraging. For 2016, the choice of subject was left to the candidates themselves; hence we received entries on wide ranging subjects. Through this essay competition we hope to generate interest in the study of Military History which can be quite valuable in creating awareness about India's military heritage in all sections of society. It needs to be noted that this essay competition is open to all citizens of India.

The USI, as a founding member of the Challenges Forum, Sweden and the Peace Capacities Network, Norway has been actively participating in their events. This year we have contributed large number of research papers. I am happy to inform that we have active participation from our former Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, Military Advisors/Deputy

Military Advisors and Force Commanders/ Deputy Force Commanders in various events/discussions conducted at the USI related to peace operations. We now have an exclusive section at the USI devoted to research on peace operations and responsibility to protect (R2P) at the strategic level. Our participation in various forums both at the national and international levels in this regard is being increasingly sought.

I also take this opportunity to put on record the excellent work being done silently by Maj Gen PK Goswami, VSM (Retd), Deputy Director (Administration), and his team of the USI Administrative Branch. The visible output of the USI, be it the seminars, workshops, discussions and the publications would not have been possible without their utmost dedication and hard work. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Lt Col BS Varma (Retd) who superannuated on 30 Jun 16, after having worked most diligently as the Assistant Director for nine years.

Coinciding with the end of 2016 will be the superannuation of Major General PJS Sandhu (Retd) who has been the Deputy Director and Editor since May 2007. In keeping with the Service tradition, as the 'Deputy' he keenly and unobtrusively oversaw my assuming the appointment of Director and settling down in my new role in Jan 2009. I could unhesitatingly draw upon him for honest and sincere advice. In his unassuming manner, he was there whenever and wherever he was required to be. With his qualities of head and heart, he could handle any situation or an event in a most dignified manner. In spite of his multifarious duties he still found time to carry out research on subjects that were close to his heart. His contribution to literature on China, especially the 1962 War, the 1965 India-Pakistan War and other strategic issues will be long remembered. He was a pillar of strength at USI and for me, his going away will be a great personal loss. However, as is the law of nature, time moves on and with time, everyone has to move. And, so it is with 'Prince' as he is popularly known. On behalf of the USI fraternity, I wish him all the luck and have no doubt that he would remain connected with USI in the years to come.

I also take this opportunity to welcome Lieutenant General Chander Prakash, SM, VSM (Retd) who will be taking over from

Major General Sandhu with effect from 01 Jan 2017. With his tremendous experience, I am sure he will bring new laurels to this great Institution. I extend to him a very hearty welcome.

Last but not the least, I would like to acknowledge the excellent services being provided by the Residency Resorts in looking after our visitors and delegations. The efficiency and politeness of their staff has been commendable.

Finally, I would like to urge all esteemed members of our prestigious Institution to actively participate in maximum activities organised by the USI. It gives us great encouragement and satisfaction when members, both serving and retired, attend various events in large numbers. I would also greatly appreciate that the members of the USI spread a word around that the serving personnel are welcome to attend the activities of the USI, even if they are not members of the USI. Their attendance is of mutual benefit. May I also request you to regularly access and browse through the USI Website: www.usiofindia.org to keep yourself updated on activities conducted/planned. We greatly value suggestions and feedback from our members. Should there be any, the same could be conveyed to the Deputy Director and Editor by mail or post. We also look forward to meeting and interacting with you in person whenever you come to the USI.

On behalf of all of us serving on the USI staff, I wish you all a

“VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR”

With best wishes,

Lieutenant General PK Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd)
Director USI



**Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina, MBE (Retd) at his Investiture at
British High Commissioner's Residence – 19 Dec 2016**



At Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina's Investiture – 19 Dec 2016

From Left to Right: Maj Gen PK Goswami, VSM (Retd), Deputy Director (Adm) USI, Lt Gen PK Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), Director USI, His Excellency Sir Dominic Asquith, KCMG, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, Col VK Singh, VSM (Retd), Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina, MBE (Retd) Secretary CAFHR, Maj Gen PJS Sandhu (Retd), Deputy Director & Editor USI and Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM** (Retd), Deputy Director (Research) USI.





Marshal of the Air Force with USI Staff and other guests

RESULTS

USI Gold Medal Essay Competition 2016

Group A - Managing Civil-Military Relations : How to Bridge the Gap

First – 05213Y Commander Pradeep K Thakur
DSSC Wellington

Second – shared jointly by :-
IC 42781A Brigadier UV Talur
HC Wing, Army War College, Mhow.
04569H Commander RS Sawan
Indian Naval Tactical Evaluation Group,
Naval Station, Karanja.

Group B - Transforming our Armed Forces to Face Challenges of Jointness

First – IC 72590A Major A Chakraborty
5 DOGRA, c/o 99 APO.

Second – IC 72405 F Maj S Luhach
5 RR (JAT), c/o 56 APO.

Lieutenant General SL Menezes Memorial Essay Competition 2016

First – 05284 H Commander Sarat Menon
DSSC Wellington.

Second – IC 64271Y Major AK Tripathi
122 Engr Regt, c/o 56 APO.