

EDITORIAL

My greetings to our esteemed members on taking over as the Deputy Director and Editor of the USI with effect from 01 May 2007. My predecessor Major General YK Gera (Retd) superannuated on 30 April 2007, having served the USI for ten years and four months. Major General Gera joined the USI on 01 January 1997, just six months after it had moved from Kashmir House to its present premises. He played a central role in the process of settling down in our new environment. It was during his tenure that the growth of the USI took place, as we see it today. He pioneered the publication of the USI Digest and the National Security Series which have now become a regular feature. He also headed the Research Wing of the USI, which has become 'Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation' under a separate Deputy Director since 01 January 2005. It is a happy coincidence that we have received appreciation from some of our readers on the high standard of articles carried by the USI Journal in its January-March 2007 Issue. It is a fitting tribute to the sense of commitment and dedication displayed by Major General Gera during his decade long innings with the USI. On behalf of all our members, I take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to Major General Gera and wish him the very best in the years to come. On my part, I have the unenviable task of carrying on and further build on the high editorial standards set by him. I have no doubt that with the blessings and cooperation from the members, we will carry forward our rich heritage and traditions.

At the very outset, it is my sad duty to inform members about the demise of two of our very senior members. IC-83 Lieutenant General Kashmir Singh Katoch, PVSM, MC (Retd), passed away on 25 April 2007. He was commissioned on 15 July 1936 and became a life member of the USI on 09 June 1936. In his capacity as Vice Chief of the Army Staff, he had also been the President of the USI Council. The Government

of India honoured him with a Padma Bhushan. IC-3343F Lieutenant General DK Chandorkar, AVSM (Retd) breathed his last at Pune on 04 June 2007. He was commissioned on 21 June 1942 and was a life member of the USI since 1948. I convey heartfelt condolences to both the families on behalf of the USI fraternity.

Admiral Arun Prakash, PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM (Retd) former Chief of Naval Staff delivered the Fifth Major General Samir Sinha Memorial Lecture at the USI on 30 April 2007, on the subject of 'India's Maritime Strategy'. The script of the lecture is the lead article in this issue of the Journal. Admiral Arun Prakash started off by drawing a distinction between 'Doctrine and Strategy' and then went on to carry out a survey of India's geo-strategic environment. He dwelt at some length on the strategy in peacetime conditions and the strategy in war. Ideally speaking, maritime force structures ought to evolve from an approved strategy. However, even in the absence of an approved strategy, Indian Navy has been able to evolve a doctrine, a perspective plan and a strategy within a span of two years. The thought processes that went into the evolution of these documents has generated a need based and budget linked force structure for the next 15 years. The Admiral concluded his talk by identifying a set of five factors which should continue to receive attention of the Navy, namely; indigenisation, shipbuilding industry, foreign cooperation, networked operations, and transformation to absorb new technologies and ideas to improve combat efficiency.

His Excellency Mr Phil Goff, Defence Minister of New Zealand delivered a talk at the USI on the subject 'New Zealand's Strategic Situation and Defence Policy: A Small Player Making a Difference' on 20 April 2007. The script of the talk is being carried in this issue. Mr Goff covered in some detail New Zealand's strategic situation, its participation in the international campaign against terrorism and Defence

Forces modernisation. In his dual role as New Zealand's Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, he also mentioned that disarmament and non-proliferation were the key priorities for his government. New Zealand considers Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as the cornerstone of the multilateral treaty regime governing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this, there is perhaps a message for India.

Naxalism has assumed menacing proportions for our internal security. The previous Issue had also carried an article on 'Rise of Naxalism and its Implications for National Security' by Shri EN Rammohan. Shri BG Verghese, a renowned columnist had presented a paper on the 'Socio-Economic Dimensions of Naxalism' during the National Security Seminar held at the USI on 22-23 November 2006. The script of his presentation is published in this issue of the Journal. Mr Verghese has analysed the socio-economic causes of Naxalism in a very comprehensive manner and also suggested some remedies. He has argued that rehabilitation as a concept, should offer full employment opportunities and dignity. Development programmes in Naxalite affected areas need a different kind of delivery system and administration. In this context, Mr Verghese has cited the example of erstwhile Frontier Administrative Service in the North East many years ago. The requirement is to evolve a system of administration which will deliver.

Major Shailender Singh Arya of 30 Assam Rifles was the winner of the USI Gold Medal Essay Competition-2006 in Group B. The edited version of his paper on 'Changing Socio-Economic Values and their Impact on the Armed Forces' is being carried in this issue. He has looked at various aspects of the changing social milieu and how it affects our youth. The officer has made some very pragmatic suggestions which would enable the Armed Forces to fulfill the aspirations of the young men and women joining the Forces; yet retaining the traditional values.

We have also carried a tribute to the USI by Late Mr Melville De Mellow (famous broadcaster and commentator) which appeared in Yojna Special Issue of January 2007. This was brought to our notice by Colonel Mohanjit Singh (Retd), one of our members. We are indeed grateful to him.

There is an ongoing thought process whether India needs a formal document termed 'India's Defence Policy'. As of now, we do not have one. An article titled – 'India's Defence Policy : A Conceptual Perspective' written by Dr Rajpal Budania, presently a Reader in the Department of Political Science, University of Allahabad is being carried in this issue of the Journal. The article should help in an objective analysis of India's Defence Policy in context of the current international system and the domestic environment.

Being the 150th year of 'India's First War of Independence -1857', an article titled "Did the Telegraph Save British in 1857 ?" by Major General VK Singh (Retd) is being carried in this issue. The article is the result of painstaking research and throws new light on an aspect which is generally not well known.

I am happy to inform the members that the catalogue of books available in the USI library can now be accessed through the Internet. The catalogue has been hosted at www.ap.nic.in/usiofindia. It can also be accessed through our website www.usiofindia.org. The members are welcome to use this 'on line' catalogue database for searching the books available in the USI Library. The contents of the USI Journal and the USI Digest since Jan 2000 are also available on our website. This has been made possible by the untiring efforts of Dr SS Murthy, our Librarian under the guidance of my predecessor Major General YK Gera (Retd). We would be happy to receive any suggestions for improvement in terms of accessibility and retrievability of information.

Happy Reading !