

## Editorial

The Tenth Major General Samir Sinha Memorial Lecture on the subject '*Indian Armed Forces and the Changing Strategic Environment*' was delivered at USI by Shri MJ Akbar on 21 February 2012 and a text of the same is being carried as the lead article. Shri Akbar started his talk by mentioning the 'fog of war' and emphasising the relationship of military history not with our lifetimes but with the unending timeline. He concluded his talk with an analytical survey of India's strategic environment, i.e. the extended neighbourhood and the dynamics of India-Pakistan-China relationship. The lecture takes you into a realm where one has not been before. To capture the mood of the moment – I may add that he was heard with rapt attention and the talk was followed by a most stimulating discussion.

*'Leadership Below Officer Level in the Indian Armed Forces'* was the subject for the USI Gold Medal Essay Competition 2011 in Group B. The prize winning essay by Captain Balamurugan R Subbu is the next article in this issue of the journal. Captain Subbu has argued for a new JCO/NCO cadre by direct recruitment in order to reduce the age profile of junior leaders.

The new American strategy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has been much in the news lately. I suppose that is the way the superpowers signal to their foes and allies their strategic direction. As India moves into the league of global players, it is time that India too articulates its strategic vision. In the next article, Lieutenant General PC Katoch, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SC (Retd) analyses the Indian situation and suggests a road map for '*Evolving a Military Strategy*' for India which would not only serve to signal to the others but also contribute to its own 'Comprehensive National Power'. Continuing in the same vein, Lieutenant General Chandra Shekhar, PVSM, AVSM (Retd) in the very next article '*Procurement Strategy and Modernisation of Defence Forces*' examines this vital aspect which is at the heart of building India's military capability to face the emerging challenges to its security. Needless to say, a sound strategy supported by a strong military is the best insurance that India can have to keep the inimical forces at bay and ensure uninterrupted social and economic progress.

In the next article '*Myanmar – Winds of Change and Opportunity*', Lieutenant Colonel Shailender Arya looks at recent political developments in Myanmar, its relevance to India's 'Look East Policy' and makes certain recommendations. He argues for a much closer relationship with Myanmar which would be to the advantage of both the nations, as well as the region. It is a relationship that is in the making and must be nurtured carefully.

The next three articles are related to some of the most critical developments in technology. Colonel Kulbhushan Bhardwaj examines the '*Requirements of Geospatial Intelligence for Tactical Networked Systems*' and Wing Commander RK Singh looks at '*India's Options in Space*'; both of these are important components of net centric warfare. Lieutenant Colonel Sushil Pradhan's article '*Robotics in Warfare*' explores yet another new field, i.e. the military applications of robotics in the future battlefield environment. In addition, he also examines the ethical and moral issues in fielding such technologies.

Piracy continues to haunt the merchant marine and has engaged the attention of navies the world over. In the next article '*Effects, Consequences and Remedial Action Against Somali Piracy*', Commander Indrajit Roy (Retd) who is now sailing with the Merchant Navy shares his hands on experience of this menace. Keeping in view India's peninsular shape and its central position in the Indian Ocean, the author highlights the special responsibility on the part of India and the need to exercise effective control on its maritime environment.

Chinese efforts at building dams in Tibet and diversion of waters continue to exercise the minds of defence analysts. Colonel PK Vasudeva (Retd) in his article '*Chinese Dams in Tibet and Diversion of Brahmaputra : Implications for India*' has made yet another attempt to examine this issue in a detailed manner. As the saying goes – there can't be any smoke without a fire, I think there is a good reason for India to be concerned and watch the developments on the plateau rather closely. There can be no better substitute to bilateral engagement on water issues to allay the fears of lower riparian states. That is what diplomacy should seek to achieve while keeping its eyes and ears open!



The Jaipur Literature Festival which has become an annual feature in the month of January each year is by now well known. Military has never been represented at the festival. USI not only sponsored a delegation but also held a session titled '*Indian Military History : The Missing Links*' which was held on 24 January 2012 at the Durbar Hall. The session drew a lot of attention, not only from the Service community but also from a large number of young people from schools and colleges who attended the session. A brief report on the festival and the session on 'military history' by Major General VK Singh (Retd), one of the discussants, is being carried in this journal.

The last article '*Cyber Security : Situation and Challenges*' is the text of a paper presented by Lieutenant General Davinder Kumar, PVSM, VSM & Bar (Retd) who represented USI at an International Symposium held at the China Institute for International Strategic Studies in Beijing on 28-29 May 2012. The paper provides a deep insight into the complexities of cyber warfare at international level and its challenges for the future.

I take great pleasure in informing the readers that copies of the flying log books of Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh, DFC, have been obtained for preservation in the USI CAFHR archives. The Marshal of the Air Force has conveyed his best wishes for good health, happiness and satisfaction in life, to all members of the USI of India, which are heartily reciprocated to him through the pages of this Journal on behalf of all members of the Institution.

### **PROCESSING OF MEMBERSHIP** **APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY POST**

Officers desirous of membership must obtain prescribed form from USI. Requests for membership will not be entertained on plain paper, letters or mere chits often sent by officers as many required details are missed out. Applications have to be accompanied by serving certificate; retired officers should attach any defence photo identity proof.

### **On Strategy**

"The various kinds of dangers are : that which is of external origin and of internal abetment; that which is of internal origin and of external abetment; that which is of external origin and of external abetment; and that which is of internal origin and of internal abetment"....."Of these four kinds of danger, internal danger should first be got rid of; for it has been already stated that internal troubles, like the fear from a lurking snake, are more serious than external troubles".

***(Kautilya's Arthashastra, Book IX, Chapter V,  
Translated by R Shamasastry)***

### **On Leadership**

"A 'yes man' is a dangerous man. He may do anything but he can never make a leader because he will be used by his superiors, disliked by his colleagues and despised by his subordinates".

**– Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw**

"The greatest leader in the world could never win a campaign unless he understood the men he had to lead"

**– General Omar Nelson Bradley**

**"A leader is a dealer in hope" – Napoleon Bonaparte**