

Editorial

'India as a Knowledge Power' was the subject of the USI National Security Lecture 2009 which was delivered by Dr Pratap Bhanu Mehta on 16 Dec 2009. The text of the lecture is being carried as the lead article in this issue of the Journal. Notwithstanding the general perception that India is well on its way to becoming a 'knowledge super power' (some even think that we are already there), Dr Mehta brought to fore the fundamental flaws in our approach to higher education and highlighted the importance of the relationship between education and occupational structures. The next two articles : 'Challenges for Military Leaders of future due to Changing Socio – economic Norms' by Lieutenant Commander Yogesh Athavale and 'Are We Neglecting the Training of Our Young Officers?' by Major Divik Kandpal are the first prize winning essays of the USI Gold Medal Essay Competition 2009 in Group A and B respectively. Dr NC Saxena, IAS (Retd) delivered a talk on the subject 'Delivering Governance and Reform of the Bureaucracy' at USI on 03 Mar 2010. The text of the talk is being carried as the next article in this issue of the Journal.

The war in Afghanistan has entered its tenth year and the end is not yet in sight. Brigadier Vinod Anand in his article 'Future of Afghanistan : Regressive Trends' analyses the situation, especially post the recent London Conference and examines possible scenarios in Afghanistan, and more importantly, implications for India.

The next two articles – 'Information Warfare : the Latest Chinese Thrust Area' by Major General SV Thapliyal, SM (Retd) and 'Asymmetric Warfare' by Lieutenant Colonel Subhojit Bhattacharya draw our attention to the capabilities being built by China in these unconventional fields which are of great relevance to us.

Dr David Stone, a professor of Military History had delivered a talk on 'The US and the Negotiation of the Indus Water Treaty' at USI on 13 Jan 2010. The text of his talk is being carried in the Journal. This treaty took nearly ten years to be negotiated and inspite of a number of wars and periods of great tension between India and Pakistan, has held. However, it also continues to be debated on both sides. An interesting fact which emerged from the talk was that the USA, though not a party to the talks as such, was always present as an invisible third party. It is good to know the history to deal with the present and look at the future.

Water issues are assuming increasing importance all over the world and it is so, in our context too. In the next article 'Himalayas: A Wake Up Call', Colonel KS Dhami (Retd) looks at the phenomenon of receding glaciers, which was a subject of great media attention recently following the report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Colonel Dhami has done some seminal work studying various glaciers as a matter of hobby and through this article he brings to the reader a first hand perspective on an issue which is assuming great importance globally.

Major General Mrinal Suman, AVSM, VSM (Retd) in the next article 'Women in the Armed Forces' carries out an in-depth analysis and argues that the issues must be subjected to objective review and not be a matter of political or populist expediency. Of course, this debate would continue for many more years.

Civil-Military relations is another subject which receives considerable media attention from time to time. Dr Kanti Bajpai while writing in the Times of India, New Delhi, Saturday, 06 Mar 2010, under the title 'Be Civil With The Military' says, ".....We think that discussion of civil-military issues will encourage subversive thoughts, but the truth is that our refusal to discuss the state of civil-military relations could undermine our democracy and our society.....". The recent spate of judgements by some High Courts, Armed Forces Tribunals and the Supreme Court do reflect that there are substantial unresolved issues which continue to fester. Air Marshal SG Inamdar, PVSM, VSM (Retd) has put together some relevant excerpts from the ancient treatise Arthashastra by Kautilya under the heading 'Kautilya to Chandragupta on the Mauryan Soldier' which have great relevance in statecraft even today. The same are being carried in this issue of the journal.

The last article 'Mountbatten as I Saw Him' by Lieutenant General SK Sinha, PVSM (Retd) is based on his personal recollections of the famous personality and the momentous events of that period. It would, no doubt, add to the oral history of those times.

I also regret to inform our members that due to some technical difficulties, our library catalogue is no longer available on the USI website. We are in the process of upgrading our website and do hope that the catalogue would be available in 3-4 months.

OBITUARIES

It is my sad duty to inform the USI fraternity about the passing away of some of our members.

Lieutenant General K Balaram, PVSM (Retd) who was commissioned into the Corps of Signals on 21 Dec 1947 breathed his last on 14 Feb 2010 at Delhi. He retired from the Army as the Adjutant General with the status of Vice Chief of Army Staff on 30 Sep 1985. After his retirement, he was a consultant in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies (1986-89), Vice Chancellor of Kurukshetra University (1989-92) and a Consultant in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (1992-96). General Balaram was a life member since Feb 1959 and had been a member of USI Council for 11 years (in four terms), and was a Council member at the time of his demise.

Lieutenant General Eric Alexander Vas, PVSM (Retd) passed away on 17 Aug 2009. He retired in May 1981 as GOC-in-C, Eastern Command. Amongst his many other achievements, General Vas was also responsible for setting up and developing the College of Combat (Army War College). He was a frequent contributor to USI Journal and also authored three books. He was a member of USI since 1949.

Lieutenant General SP Malhotra, PVSM (Retd) of Guards, who had been a life member since 1947, passed away on 24 Jan 2010. The General had a distinguished career in the Army and retired as GOC-in-C Northern Command.

Lieutenant General HK Sibal, MVC (Retd) who had been commissioned into 5th Gorkha Rifles, passed away on 25 Jan 2010 at the age of 92 years. He had been a life member of USI since 1992.

Lieutenant General Vijay Kumar Sood, PVSM, AVSM (Retd) who had been commissioned into the Dogra Regiment on 13 Dec 1953, passed away on 24 Mar 2010. He retired as the Vice-Chief of the Army Staff in 1992. He had been a life member of USI since 1989.

Brigadier Yogesh Kumar Saksena, VSM (Retd) of Engineers, expired on 21 Jan 2010. He was wounded in 1965 Indo-Pak War and was taken a prisoner of war. During his distinguished career he served on a number of UN missions and continued to do so as a UN Military officer and Diplomat, even after his retirement. He was a member of USI since 1985.

Commodore Babri Bahan Yadav (Retd) passed away on 22 Jan 2010. He had been a life member of USI since 1991.

Lieutenant Colonel Debabrata Sarbadhikari, SM (Retd) of 5/8 GR, passed away in Dec 2009. He was a life member of USI since 1957.

Lieutenant Colonel Amar Nath Juneja, (Retd) who had been commissioned into Ordnance Corps, breathed his last on 16 Feb 2010 at the age of 88 years. He was a life member of USI since 1996.

On behalf of the USI fraternity, I convey our heartfelt condolences to the next of kin of the departed comrades in arms whose loss will be deeply felt. May their souls rest in peace.

Editor