

Director's Page

Dear Members,

We have come to the end of another eventful year at USI in which we undertook some new projects to widen the potential of research work to serve the cause of national security by enhancing the effectiveness of our military preparedness and diplomatic initiatives. The President's Report for 2012, available on the USI website, provides a good insight into our activities.

Besides the normal activities of USI, I would like to make a special mention of our path-breaking endeavour in the domain of strategic thought by introducing Net Assessment, Scenario Planning and Strategy Formulation exercises. The following events were conducted :-

- (a) Capsules/workshops on Net Assessment, Scenario Building and Strategy Formulation by an expert team, with 'Hands on Experience' of the subject.
- (b) Strategic Games for NDC course members, and during the Joint Operations Capsule (JOCAP) for Higher Command Courses of the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- (c) Net Assessment studies titled "Strategic Balance in South Asia-2025 and War Waging Potential of China-2025".

Next, I would like thank those who have shared their personal experiences with us on 'India's Wars Through Soldier's Eyes' during the last one year. A list of the contributions received upto July 2012 was published in the July-September 2012 Issue of USI Journal. Since then some more accounts have been received. We have decided to carry some of these in the USI Journal over a period of time. Accordingly, two such accounts find a place in this Issue of the Journal. I appeal once again for more contributions. Even if a piece does not find a place in the USI Journal, it will be preserved in the USI Archives for posterity.

Naxalism is the most serious internal security threat that the Country is facing today. A joint panel discussion with Amity University on the subject '*Problem of Naxalism in India. Ground*

Realities and Strategic Challenges Towards Conflict Resolution on 26 Jul 2012, received an overwhelming response. A full report on the panel discussion was carried in July-September 2012 issue of the Journal and should be of interest to those concerned with the issue.

Increase in USI's association with foreign institutions and dignitaries, through bilateral and multilateral interactions, has strengthened our relations with many countries. Participation in numerous International Conferences has also helped in promoting mutual interests and understanding each other's views realistically. Our latest initiative has led us to be a Founding Member of an International Civilian Capacity (CIVCAP) Network, which is a research partnership bringing together national institutes with expertise in peacebuilding research. Our other partners in this initiative are the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, South Africa; Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia; Igarape Institute, Brazil; Institute of Contemporary Studies, Russia; International Institute for Strategic Studies, China; Istanbul Policy Centre, Sabanci University, Turkey and the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs, Norway.

Issues connected with climate change and its effect on the environment have assumed great importance internationally and in the national context. USI's modest effort to study the situation on ground through 'Adventure-cum-Study' treks to monitor/fix 'snout zone' of big glaciers feeding major rivers in north-western Himalayas ended with 'Bara Shigri Glacier' trek undertaken from 03-07 Oct 2012. The observations and findings of these study treks will now form part of the book titled *'Himalayas – Mountains of Our Destiny'*. We also have plans to set up a Remote Glaciers Monitoring Network.

Like the previous years, USI's Course Section is continuing to do excellent work. 3680 students attended our courses, including 1236 officers who took the DSSC/TSOC Correspondence Course. The results speak for themselves. 38 out of the 40 competitive vacancies for the DSSC were secured by the officers who had attended the USI Correspondence Course. In the nominated list 97 per cent officers are those who underwent the USI Course.

Even among those who secured a spot in the 'reserves' list our students did well to secure 25 out of 27 places. In addition, out of the 80 officers nominated for the TSOC, 75 were our students. The Chief Instructor and his team of dedicated serving and retired officers deserve our commendation for the yeoman service being rendered by them to facilitate our distance learning programmes vigorously.

The Research Section (CS3) and the Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research (CAFHR) have also expanded their field of work notably by delving into the past, taking note of rapidly changing international scenario and future developments. There is a significant increase in USI publications – a list is included in each issue of USI journal and website.

I would like to inform our members that USI has undertaken a joint project with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), to document all Indian War Memorials in India and overseas. It is being monitored by me personally through CAFHR. We are also acting as the nodal agency for coordinating activities relating to Indian participation in the Centenary Commemoration of the First World War in partnership with the MEA.

USI Centre for UN Peacekeeping (USI-CUNPK) continues to receive worldwide acclaim for training Indian contingents and officers from the Indian Armed Forces and 78 friendly foreign countries, for furthering the cause of UN Peacekeeping missions.

The USI Journal is now recognised as the "Oldest journal of its kind on Defence Affairs in the World". I say this, armed with the fact that I have stated this across the world in my interaction with various defence experts, diplomats and bureaucrats without being challenged by anyone. Much of the credit for this accrues from USI's rich heritage and contribution of its members consistently over a long period of time. Their presence in large numbers has been appreciated by distinguished speakers during Memorial lectures and International seminars. Interestingly, while being our pride, they are a 'source of envy' for other institutions. It is reassuring to note that USI Membership has now grown to over 15,000 members and keeps increasing steadily.

Upgrading the facilities and addition of latest books to USI Library is an ongoing process. Digitisation of rare books has been a notable activity in the last year. Later, they will be put on USI website. Books bequeathed and presented by members thoughtfully are gratefully acknowledged and added to the bookshelves regularly. Besides expressing our gratitude, I request all members to keep this process of enriching the USI library going as a self rewarding gesture.

Lastly, I seek greater participation by our Members, as also serving Armed Forces Officers (even if they are not members of USI, as they are permitted to attend USI events), in various events. The USI fraternity, I reiterate, is the strength of USI. All USI activities, events and information are put on the USI website: www.usiofindia.org. The members should access the same regularly, specially before you come to attend scheduled events at USI.

On behalf of all of us on the staff of United Service Institution of India, I wish our esteemed Members a HAPPY NEW YEAR. As always, we look forward to meet you at the USI.

With regards

Lieutenant General PK Singh (Retd)
Director

USI National Security Seminar 2012



A view of the Audience during the Seminar



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