

# Editorial

The 28<sup>th</sup> National Security Lecture 2012 on the subject 'National Security Reforms : Ten Years After the Kargil Committee Report' was delivered by Admiral Arun Prakash, PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM (Retd), former Chief of Naval Staff on 05 Dec 2012. Text of the same is being carried as the lead article in this Issue of the Journal. Admiral Prakash covered a very wide canvas and identified the main impediments to reforms including the political inaction. India, he said was unique amongst major powers that had not seen it fit to entrust its armed forces with any role in national decision making. After the interactive session, Lieutenant General SK Sinha, PVSM (Retd) former Vice Chief of the Army Staff and former Governor of Assam and J&K, based on his vast experience made substantial comments which also added value to the lecture. One may surmise that the road to tangible security sector reforms in India is likely to be a long and difficult one. At the same time, there is a degree of urgency that requires this process to be taken to its logical conclusion, if India is to achieve a great power status.

In the very next article 'Fifty Years After the 1962 Debacle', Lieutenant General S Pattabhiraman, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd) has critically examined the current state of Sino-Indian relations from the stand point of a possible deterioration of relations leading to a military confrontation. Again, the archaic higher defence management prevalent in India of those times emerges as the main cause of the debacle. The fact that we have not moved very much further in national security reforms also adds to the sense of urgency that Admiral Arun Prakash highlighted in his lecture. The author has also dwelt on possible flash points, current prognosis and future scenarios which are thought provoking.

Ms Debalina Chatterjee in the next article 'China's Ambiguous Nuclear Doctrine - Concerns for the US ? ' analyses the apprehensions and responses of the USA regarding China's nuclear doctrine and how a degree of stability between the two major powers may come about. In the same context, India's successful test launch of Agni V missile in April 2012 had also caused quite a stir in various capitals of the world, especially in Beijing. Major General YK Gera in his article 'Agni-V Test Launch and its

Implications' puts the same in the correct perspective. He suggests that India and China ought to have a frank dialogue on their respective regional security interests, including nuclear issues and find ways to reduce friction and promote stability in Asia.

Recently, the world has seen two important power transitions, i.e. the American elections and the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. In the next article 'Strategic Challenges that lie Beyond the Elections and Power Transition in Washington and Beijing', Brigadier AS Cheema, VSM and Bar has examined how these two power transitions are likely to impact global equations and how India could leverage her own position in the emerging world order.

Of late, Kautilya's Arthsastra has evoked a lot of interest in India and abroad. In the next article Brigadier CB Khanduri (Retd) has given a very broad overview of Kautiliya's Arthsastra and its relevance to the present day strategic thought and governance. The author is able to focus on the wealth of wisdom that is contained in this historic Indian treatise on statecraft and it would be of great interest to scholars.

The character of war is constantly undergoing transformation with developments in technology. Lieutenant General Davinder Kumar, PVSM, VSM and Bar (Retd) in his article 'Challenges of a Digitised Battlefield' looks at the battlefield of the future and how information superiority has become a war winning factor. While such capabilities will increasingly come into use in almost all the advance militaries, the side which can enhance its speed of decision making based on real time information and deny the same to the adversary will emerge as the winner. In the Indian Armed Forces, we need to integrate these net centric capabilities, both vertically within each Service and horizontally between the Services, so as to be able to operate seamlessly.

The next article 'Relevance of Territorial Army and Its Future Employment' by Lieutenant Colonel Harish Katoch examines the whole concept of TA in the Indian context. National Security is becoming not only more complex but also very expensive. For India, the challenges are even more daunting as large portions of our land borders are still disputed, undemarcated and unsettled.



The concept of TA for a country like India which has a large population and complex security concerns, holds great promise. There is a case to look at the TA in a more holistic manner and place greater reliance on this citizen's army in times of national emergencies.

As part of the ongoing USI initiative, Colonel KS Dhami (Retd) led another Adventure cum Study Trek to the Bara Shigri Glacier in the Lahaul-Spiti area of Himachal Pradesh from 03 - 07 Oct 2012. A report on the same is being carried as the next article. By all standards, it was a difficult trek which Colonel Dhami and his small team completed in the shortest possible time. With this trek, we have completed the preliminary recording of data of five major glaciers : Gangotri, Siachen, Kolahoi, Baspa and Bara Shigri. By monitoring these periodically, we hope to establish the rate at which these glaciers are receding. Through these treks and studies we hope to contribute to the national effort for study of environment and climate change.

The readers would recollect that the USI had launched a project "Indian Wars – As seen through Soldiers' Eyes". I am happy to inform the readers that the idea has become a reality. In this issue of the Journal we are carrying two such narratives – one by Lieutenant General Pran Pahwa, PVSM (Retd) about his experience at Bomdi La in 1962 and the second one by Captain Shekhar Dutt, SM, IAS (Retd), Governor of Chattisgarh sharing his experiences in the Barmer Sector during 1971 War. I hope some more serving officers and veterans would feel motivated enough to pen their experiences for posterity.

#### **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.