

Editorial

As mentioned in the last Issue of the Journal a joint USI-MEA project to highlight India's involvement in the First World War (1914-18) has been launched. I am happy to share with our members that the project has by now gathered steam and its own momentum. This Issue opens with a brief write-up on the 'India and the Great War' by Squadron Leader RTS Chhina (Retd) giving an update on the project and various events planned in the near future.

The USI National Security Lecture 2013 on 'Civil-Military Relations : Opportunities and Challenges' was delivered by Shri NN Vohra, IAS (Retd) Governor Jammu and Kashmir on 06 Dec 2013. The text of the talk is being carried as the lead article in this Issue of the Journal. The lecture was well attended and generated a lot of interest among the audience and the media. This is evident from the fact that excerpts from the talk have already appeared in some of the leading national dailies and some other publications. Mr Vohra in a very precise manner explained the very basis of civil-military interactions at governmental level and various constitutional provisions. It would appear that the 'Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961' and 'Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961' provide the basic constitutional framework which have governed civil-military relations in India during the last five decades. Mr Vohra also highlighted the lack of synergy between the Services and went on to suggest the replacement of the existing single Service Act by an Armed Forces Act which would lay a statutory basis for achieving jointness and delineating the roles, duties and missions of the Armed Forces, as also the procedures and modalities relating to the functioning of the Defence Apparatus. Needless to say, whatever term one may use, there is a systemic problem with our 'Defence Apparatus' and it can be ignored only at the cost of national security.

The next article 'Indian Nuclear Doctrine – A Re-look' by Dr KR Singh examines India's Nuclear Doctrine from various angles and goes on to establish the need for a review, especially the 'no first use' clause and the credibility of 'punitive retaliation'. This has become all the more relevant in view of Pakistan developing tactical

nuclear weapons and the growing Chinese arsenal which will have a profound effect on India's strategic environment.

Today, strategic dialogue between countries has become an important framework for the conduct of international relations; and so it is between India and China since 2005. However, it is pertinent to ask – what have been its achievements? Dr Bhartendu Kumar Singh in his article 'China-India Strategic Dialogue : Problems and Prospects' explores its logic, gains and the prospects. While accepting the need for greater investment in the ongoing process he also argues for a realistic target of 'strategic understanding' instead of the so called 'strategic partnership' in various fields in order to avoid frustration.

The next article 'Russia-China Interplay in Central Asia and the SCO' by Dr Zamira Muratalieva from Kyrgyzstan analyses a very complex relationship between these two large and powerful neighbours in a neighbourhood with multidirectional pulls and pressures. For the moment they seem to be manoeuvring for compromise solutions, while hedging for an advantageous position.

Cyber space is an emerging field with very few rules and hardly any regulations at international level. It is also a field which is important from the military point of view and has the potential to be used as hard and soft power. In the next article 'Understanding Cyber Weapons', Colonel Sanjeev Relia analyses the potential of cyber weapons in a non-conflict scenario as also in a conventional war. It is a field that India cannot afford to ignore. Continuing in the same vein, Brigadier Sanjeev Chauhan in the next article examines the role of social media in inciting ethno-religious and civil society unrests in the Indian context. It has far reaching implications for internal security and the State has to develop monitoring mechanisms without being too intrusive.

It is over five years since the Mumbai terror attacks on 26 Nov 2008; yet neither the perpetrators have been brought to book, nor has the Country been able to organise foolproof mechanisms to thwart such an attack in future. In the next article 'Lessons Learnt from the 26-11-2008 Pakistan Based Lashkar-e-Taiba Raid on Mumbai', Shri EN Rammohan, IPS (Retd) looks at various failures and the lessons that ought to have been learnt from this tragic event.

Recently, we heard the news of the death of two Indian peacekeepers and a third one wounded (all three Junior Commissioned Officers) in South Sudan. In the next article "Abyei : Africa's Conundrum", Colonel VT Mathew who has served in the UN Mission in that area explains the basic causes of continuing strife and the dangers that lie ahead. Undoubtedly, the area already seems to be engulfed in a civil war. Incidentally, this is not the first time that Indian peacekeepers have been killed in action. So far 154 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice; notable amongst them was Captain Gurbachan Sibgh Salaria who was killed in Congo in 1961 and was awarded Param Vir Chakra (posthumous).

The liberation of Goa in 1961 is already a distant memory. However, the fact remains that it was nearly 14 years after Independence that we were able to integrate the enclaves of Goa, Daman and Diu, till then ruled by the Portuguese, into the Indian Union, and that too after an armed action. There were also many international ramifications which had to be considered. In the next article 'Operation Vijay : The Liberation of *'Estado da India'* – Goa, Daman and Diu', Brigadier AS Cheema, VSM (Retd) recapitulates the planning and conduct of the operation in all its details. This was the first military operation conducted by the Indian Defence Forces after the 1947-48 J&K War; the synergy and cooperation displayed by the three Services was commendable. The operation was also concluded rather swiftly by some outstanding tactical manoeuvres. A thought does come to mind – did it create a sense of complacency which was to result in the 1962 debacle, just a year later!

As in previous issues, the last section 'Wars – As Seen Through Soldiers' Eyes' carries three personal accounts from the 1971 War : 'Difficult to Die' by Colonel Brij Bhushan Midha (Retd); 'A True Soldier' by Captain S Bloeria, PhD, IAS (Retd); and '1971 – Challenge in Sind : Munabao to Naya Chor' by Colonel Vijay Bhushan (Retd). These pieces bring to life the trials and tribulations of war at personal level which in some cases also become folklore.