

From the Desk of the Director, Center for Publications

It is a privilege to present the final edition of the Journal of the United Service Institution of India (USI) for the year 2025. This issue brings together a coherent and well-balanced set of articles that examine the evolving character of conflict, operational practice, strategic thought, and emerging challenges in national and international security.

In the lead article, titled 'Macro View of Operations in Jammu and Kashmir and the Sialkot Sector' by Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar, PVSM, VSM, AVSM, VrC, Padma Bhushan (Retd), offers a macro-level operational analysis of the 1965 Indo-Pakistan War in Jammu and Kashmir and the Sialkot sector, highlighting leadership decisions, operational constraints, and institutional learning. Complementing this historical perspective, Lieutenant General DP Pandey, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) gave his view on 'Operation Sindoor: Air Power as Enforcer of National Will', in which he examines air power as an instrument for enforcing national will, demonstrating how calibrated air campaigns, clear political intent, and joint integration shape outcomes in contemporary limited conflicts.

In the third article titled, 'Enhancing Efficacy of Peacekeeping Operations in an Uncertain Future', Major General Alok Deb, SM, VSM (Retd), critically assesses the future relevance of United Nations peacekeeping in an era marked by hybrid warfare, contested mandates, and diminishing consent, advocating a shift towards smaller and more focused missions. In a related operational context, Major General Jagatbir Singh, VSM (Retd), in his article titled 'Air Littoral: The New Sub-domain that Demands a Fresh Look at Verticality' argues for recognising the air littoral as a distinct sub-domain of warfare, emphasising doctrinal clarity and decentralised control to counter persistent low-altitude threats.

Mrs Kanika Sharma, PhD and Wing Commander UC Jha, PhD (Retd) in their article 'Super Soldiers' examines the concept of human enhancement and its implications for international humanitarian law and military ethics. In the sixth 'article titled 'Short

Recoil System for Artillery Systems and its Application in the Indian Army', Brigadier Mandeep Singh (Retd) analyses soft recoil systems for artillery, highlighting how technological innovation can enhance mobility, survivability, and operational tempo in high-threat environments.

Brigadier Nishit Ranjan in his contribution titled 'India's Northeast Region and its Significance as India's Gateway to Southeast Asia', explores India's Northeast Region as a strategic gateway to Southeast Asia, linking connectivity and security to the success of the Act East Policy. In the subsequent article, 'India-Malaysia Defence Diplomacy: An Analysis', Mr PJ Khache, PhD analyses India-Malaysia defence diplomacy, underscoring converging interests in maritime security and strategic balance in the Pacific.

In the ninth contribution—'Metal Minds and Machine Soldiers: Warfare Reimagined Beyond the Human Edge'—Colonel Vikas Yadav (Retd) evaluates the transformative impact of artificial intelligence and autonomous systems on future warfare, raising concerns related to accountability, escalation, and ethical governance. This is followed by an article titled 'KĀmandakanĪtisĀra: Decoding Ancient Indian Army Formations' by Ms Manashi Ghosh, which revisits ancient Indian military thought through the *KĀmandakanĪtisĀra* (The Essence of Statecraft by Kāmandaka), offering enduring insights into organisation, strategy, and statecraft.

Professor Raman D Surie in the eleventh submission titled 'Heritage Conservation and the Indian Armed Forces' addresses the need for systematic heritage conservation within the armed forces, advocating a professional and institutionalised approach to preserving both tangible and intangible military heritage. The remaining contributions include an illustrated discussion on principles of war by Brigadier SK Sinha (Retd) from the USI archives titled 'PRINCIPLES OF WAR: Illustrated from Indian Campaigns' and an examination of future joint operations in the aerospace domain by Wing Commander Vikas Kalyani, runner-up of the USI–Chief of Air Staff Essay Competition. Together, these articles reinforce the growing emphasis on jointness, multi-domain operations, and preparedness for future conflict.

Taken together, the articles in this issue provide a balanced and forward-looking examination of war, peace, and security.

The edition concludes with three review articles and one short book review. The review, by Major General Jagatbir Singh, VSM (Retd), assesses the book *75 Years of India's Contribution to United Nations Peacekeeping* by Major General PK Goswami, VSM (Retd), highlighting how India's professionalism and values have shaped peacekeeping practice and reinforced its standing as a trusted United Nations contributor. The second review examines *Underworld Tyranny: The Traffickers' Reign Unveiled*, edited by Major Namrata Dhasmana (Retd), and reviewed by Commander Saurav Mohanty, which analyses the nexus between trafficking, organised crime, and weak governance, underscoring the need for ethical leadership, institutional coordination, and international cooperation.

The next review examines the book *Braving the Odds: My Journey in Olive Green*, by Brigadier Jitendra Kumar Tomar, VrC reviewed by Mr Gaurav Kumar. It offers a precise, unsentimental account of leadership and teamwork during the 1971 Battle of Balnoi, while also tracing his broader career and lifelong commitment to the Indian Army, making it a valuable leadership and military history work.

In the final contribution by Mr Neelotpal Mishra, who reviews the book, *Russia-Ukraine War: Strategic Conundrum* by Bharti Das and Uday Pratap Singh offers an India-anchored yet globally informed analysis of the conflict and its strategic implications.

The Editorial Board hopes that this edition will stimulate informed debate, enrich professional military education, and contribute meaningfully to India's strategic discourse.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Happy Reading!

Major General Sanjeev Chowdhry (Retd)
Director, Centre for Publications