

Editorial

It gives me great pleasure to present to you our second issue of this year's volume, even as we are simultaneously working on two special issues for 2023, on "India–Africa Defence Cooperation" and "Air Power and India: Multi-dimensional Trends". It is truly heartening to see the response being received for the *Journal of Defence Studies*, not only in terms of increased number of submissions but also subscription requests, and letters of appreciation for our special issues.

The present issue features five articles, three commentaries, one review essay and one book review. The first article titled "India–Malaysia Defence Relations: Issues and Challenges", by Dr M. Venkataraman, analyses how the bilateral defence relations between India and Malaysia have progressed over the years, moving from what was seen as incompatible a few decades ago to the level of strategic partnership in present times, especially when looked at in the context of India's Act East policy. Various factors like the historical relations and the developments during the Cold War era, post-Cold War strategic scenario as also the defence tie-ups and their challenges have been covered in great detail in this article.

The evolution of smart devices has led to the concept of creating smart cities, and several nations are working towards developing a smart technology ecosystem for ease of governance, economic growth, and the overall comfort of their citizens. Covering this relevant topic, the second article titled "A Study on Measuring the Index of Technologies (Smart and Conventional)", by Gp Capt K. Rakesh Kumar, examines the concepts of human settlements, technologies, the evolution of smart technology and briefly touches upon the concept of the administrative divisions of a nation, with particular emphasis on India. The article outlines a model framework for measuring the technology index based on the levels of administrative divisions amalgamated with the hierarchy of settlements, and concludes by describing the results of a test case scenario applied to the proposed indexing technologies model.

In the third article titled "Critical Analysis of the Chinese Private Space Sector: The Past, Present and Future", Mr Arpan Chakravarty presents a comprehensive review of China's emerging private space industry, including

an analysis of government policies, investments and international relations. The article also offers a perspective on India's thriving space industry, encouraging it to explore commercial possibilities and implement domestic space reforms keeping long-term strategic goals into consideration.

With the growth of hyper-active internet, the requirement of protection against hostile threats has become a matter of concern. In the fourth article titled "TDRD: A New Conceptual Model for Advanced Targeting Systems using Artificial Intelligence Algorithms", Mr Sandeep Bhattacharjee presents a suggestive model based on Artificial Intelligence algorithms to understand the nature of calculated threat posed by potential threats and take necessary actions as and when deemed suitable. The suggestive model can be useful for policy-makers and concerned industries to consider more research effort unilaterally or collectively.

'Cyber-biosecurity' is an emerging threat landscape at the intersection of cybersecurity, cyber-physical security and biosecurity, and has the potential to disrupt economic, social and political well-being of a nation. Dr Mrinmayee Bhushan, in her article "Cyber-Biosecurity: An Emerging National Security Frontier", draws our attention to the urgent need for a robust Cyber-biosecurity legal infrastructure and comprehensive policy formation with the proactive participation of all stakeholders.

This issue also features three commentaries on the following topics: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human-Machine Teaming (by Col G. Praveen); Aptitude Tests to Assess the Suitability of Gentlemen Cadets for Allotment of Technical Arms/Services upon Commissioning at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun (by Lt Col Harish Chandra Vyas, Retd and Mr Sanjeev Vyas); and "India-Egypt Defence Cooperation: Continuity and Reset" (by Mr Niranjan Marjani). A review essay titled "Reality, Lies and Automation: How AI-Powered Text Generation Models Could Cause Chaos?", by Capt Sunil Tyagi, and a review of Maj Gen Samay Ram's book titled *Two Decades of US-Taliban War in Afghanistan*, by Dr R. Vignesh, are also featuring in this issue.

We hope that the issue will be received well by our readers. We would like to thank the authors and the referees who assisted us in the peer review process and would like to hear more from our readers about topics they feel should be addressed by the journal. We hope that along with our growing readership, we would also see more contributions to future issues.

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Managing Editor