

Editorial

We welcome you to the second issue of the year which rolls out even as India is still battling COVID-19, and the process of vaccination is speeding up. In spite of the constraints imposed on us by the pandemic, we have put in our best efforts to bring to you this issue on time.

It has been our misfortune that we recently lost an important member of the *JDS* Editorial Committee, to COVID-19. The issue carries a tribute in remembrance of Dr S. Kalyanaraman, who was associated with the journal since its inception and contributed immensely to its growth over the years.

The issue carries four articles and three book reviews. The first article 'UN Peacekeeping in Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2003–2010: An Operational Perspective for Air Power Employment' by Air Vice Marshal Rajesh Isser (Retd) attempts to draw important lessons of air power employment in UN Peacekeeping, based on the unique Indian experience in Democratic Republic of the Congo. The experience was unique since it pioneered a new robustness in peacekeeping with the help of air power. The article starts with encapsulating the Indian concept of air power employment as a model that clarifies main actions and the complexities involved. It then explains the MONUC mandate, and the operational challenges that posed serious constraints, and gives a few recommendations for improving civilian protection strategies.

The second article 'Is Sino-Pakistan Collusion a Chimera? A Game Theory Perspective' by Colonel Govindan Praveen is an attempt to relook at traditional approaches and narratives on Sino-Pakistan collusion, from a game theory perspective. The article directs our attention to the intricacies in the inter se relations of China, Pakistan and India and the role of other influential players like the US and Russia. The dyadic relations between India and Pakistan have been studied first, followed by the triad of India, China and Pakistan, with emphasis on the game theoretic possibility of a collusion. The article emphasises on leveraging of diplomacy, information, military and economic (DIME) instruments of national power, as the way forward for India.

It is said that not war but technology has shaped warfare since the beginning of the mankind. In the third article 'Lethal Autonomous

Weapon Systems and the Legal Regime’, Lieutenant Commander Abhimanyu Singh undertakes an examination of the development and deployment of lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS) on land, air, sea and space, and the complexities involved in the application of existing set of rules concerning international humanitarian laws (IHL), in the maritime domain. The article also highlights the need to regulate the facet of modern warfare with effective legal machinery to make the modern warfare IHL compliant.

The fourth article ‘Cybersecurity and Threats: Cyberterrorism and the Order Today’ by Rebant Juyal examines cyberterrorism as a component of cyberthreats that are hard to detect and difficult to investigate because of their anonymity, and are capable of convulsing the economic and social order of the world, considering the globally integrated transnational character of cyberspace. Even though cyberterrorism has been acknowledged internationally as a major risk to global peace, there is no universally agreed definition for cyberterrorism. The article mentions the definitions of cyberterrorism at the outset, followed by a section on the threats posed by cyberterrorism and compares them *vis-à-vis* the conventional terror attacks. The various initiatives taken in India and by international forums to mitigate cyberterror attacks have also been covered. The article further analyses the constitutional obligation of the state to protect cyberspace and underlines the need for international regulation and cooperative cybersecurity framework to deal with cyberterrorism effectively.

The issue also carries three book reviews: *Countering Islamic State Ideology: Voices of Singapore Scholars*, edited by Muhammad Haniff Hassan and Rohan Gunaratna, reviewed by Adil Rasheed; *The Concept of Active Defence in China’s Military Strategy* by Amrita Jash, reviewed by Captain (IN) Gurpreet S. Khurana; and *Internal Security: A Psychological Approach* by Major General Sanjay Bhide, reviewed by Rajbala Rana.

We hope that this issue would find resonance with our readers and serve to inform and educate on key issues. We 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. Do write to the Associate Editor, *Journal of Defence Studies* at jds.mpidsa@gov.in. We hope that along with our growing readership, we would also see more contributions to future issues.

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