

## From the Managing Editor

Over the past few years, the *Journal of Defence Studies* (JDS) has alternately covered specific themes and articles of interest on varied subjects. The previous issue—October 2012—of JDS was devoted to 1962 India-China War, on the occasion of the 50th year of the event. This issue covers a number of thematic topics on internal security, naval and air warfare, nuclear terrorism, China's military modernization, and the logistics support agreement with USA. It is our endeavour to reach out to our esteemed readers with analyses on matters of importance which have, or will have, a bearing on India's national security.

In this issue, in 'China's "Anti-ship Ballistic Missile" Based Anti-access Concept: Implications of a Southward Re-orientation', K.K. Agnihotri discusses the Chinese efforts towards actualization of the 'offshore defense' concept, which entails the conduct of campaigns in distant waters, strategic deterrence and counterattacks, which has an inherent risk of confrontation with other maritime forces, particularly the US. Agnihotri discusses in-depth China's Anti-access and Area Denial (A2AD) concept, predicated mainly around the DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missiles, to defend itself against overarching US maritime superiority in such a scenario. He argues that the inherently defensive Anti-access concept against the US in the Western Pacific has the potential to transform into an offensive option for the Northern Indian Ocean, should it undergo a southward re-orientation. Situational assessment of such a possibility would provide an insight into the technological challenges which could be posed to the security of the resident Northern Indian Ocean littorals. Agnihotri goes on to suggest that the possibility of such a challenge emerging in future should catalyze a vigorous maritime cooperative endeavour between commonly affected parties operating in the region.

Rikeesh Sharma's article—'Transformation of Indian Naval Aviation Post New Inductions'—highlights the importance of credible surveillance and Maritime Reconnaissance over the high seas for infallible maritime security and for the conduct of successful maritime operations. In view of the growing strategic importance of the Indian Ocean, the author

discusses the Indian Navy's asset acquisition plan commensurate with the myriad challenges envisaged in providing maritime security to the nation. Sharma discusses these acquisitions and showcases their contribution in the broader context of the Navy's strategic aim towards provision of maritime security.

Arnab Das reviews the 'Naval Operations Analysis in the Indian Ocean Region'. His review identifies gaps in sonar technology contributing to their ineffectiveness and presents a naval operations analysis strategy to significantly improve their performance in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). In his view, the shift of the naval theatre to the littoral waters has led to a paradigm change in terms of technology requirements to retain the effectiveness of these sonars. He opines that the underwater environment in littoral waters is significantly influenced by the local conditions and is known to be site specific. This is especially so in the IOR as the shallow waters are compounded by tropical conditions.

Vivek Kapur's article—'Challenges for the Indian Air Force: 2032'—is the first of a four-article series on the theme: 'IAF Deep Multidimensional Change 2032: Imperatives and a Roadmap'. It examines the challenges that the Indian Air Force (IAF) is likely to face when it completes a century in 2032. In the author's view, the main external challenges facing the IAF are the Chinese, Pakistani and combined Sino-Pak threat, and the need to build and maintain capability for Out of Area Contingency Operations. Internal threats identified fall under groups of technology, including the control of IAF's equipment, cyber warfare, issues stemming from IAF's unavoidable linkages with society at large, and issues pertaining to IAF's own organizational structure and policies. The three subsequent articles will discuss the ways and means to address these challenges as well as provide recommendations towards that end.

In 'Changing the Course of War Through Targeted Aerial Strikes: Afghanistan 2008–09', Mayank S. Bubna opines that the targeted air strikes remain a cornerstone fighting technique in modern counter-insurgency and other military operations. Yet, scholars and practitioners remain divided on the question of the efficacy of this battle mechanism. This article examines some of the underlying assumptions made in their previous analyses, and serves to nuance those approaches. Specifically, it looks at war not as a static phenomenon but rather as a constantly evolving environment—one where such aerial campaigns affect insurgent counter-strike capabilities and decisions. Using the example of the US-led war in Afghanistan in 2008–09, the author discovers that air strikes

limit non-sophisticated counterattacks but are unable to reverse a growing trend of sophisticated insurgent activity—a discovery that has academic and policy relevant implications.

Mahendra Prasad provides an overview of the evolution of ‘Quality Assurance (QA) in Army Procurements’. He addresses the various shortcomings in the contemporary principles and practices that cause delays in procurements and provides practical and possible solutions. The idea is to highlight the most important areas which require immediate attention. This is vital given that the country is seeking to modernize its military in order to overcome existing challenges and face constantly evolving threats. Prasad analyses in some detail the causes of these shortcomings and provides relevant recommendations to overcome them and make the process of QA more efficient and thus minimize delays.

Saroj Bishoyi’s article, ‘Logistics Support Agreement: A Closer Look at the Impact on India-US Strategic Relationship’, suggests that logistics support between the armed forces of India and the US will be a vital ingredient in enhancing cooperation in capability development to respond to natural disasters and address emerging security threats of the twenty-first century. The exchange of logistics support facilities would enhance bilateral defence cooperation as well as India’s strategic role, keeping in view the projected expansion of the Indian Navy’s role beyond the IOR. The absence of appropriate logistics support mechanism between the two countries would hamper such capabilities. Bishoyi makes a case for the agreement as being mutually beneficial as long as a consensus is reached that is consistent with individual national interests and policies.

In ‘Nuclear Terrorism: Inevitable but Preventable?’, Raj Shukla examines the issue of nuclear terrorism, seeking to go beyond the hype and examine the real portents of the threat in terms of event possibilities. Shukla calls for sobriety and balance in discussion, emphasizes the importance of scientific facts, and cautions against embracing unduly alarmist overtones. The article further stresses on the need to be resolute with regard to incident occurrence because the potential consequences of a nuclear terrorist attack are so devastating as to outweigh the very low probability of event occurrence.

In ‘The Significance of 2020 in the Sino-Indian Context’, Mandip Singh analyses statements made by China’s outgoing President Hu Jintao at the 18th Party Congress regarding the People’s Liberation Army’s (PLA) military modernization programme. Singh identifies 2020 as a key timeline in the speech and in the military modernization process. Drawing from the previous biennial National Defense papers and significant statements

made by the Chinese leadership, he assesses the modernization plan of the PLA's four services in the Sino-Indian context and the probable capabilities that each service is likely to develop by 2020. The analysis covers the training, education, logistics and development of weapons and equipment by the PLA. This would enable Indian planners to assess the PLA capabilities and capacity as also guide our own modernization plans to deter a possible China threat by 2020.

Anshuman Behera analyses the growth and radicalization of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), the linkages it has formed with various domestic and external terror outfits, and the threat it poses to the nation's security, in his article 'The Students Islamic Movement of India: The Story So Far'. The article attempts to offer a better understand the reasons which led to growth of SIMI and analyses the ways and means of dealing with it.

General Deepak Kapoor contributes a perspective piece on instability in Pakistan to this issue. The issue also contains concise yet nuanced commentaries on the UK-India defence relationship and India's move eastwards to the South China Sea by S. Kalyanaraman and Saloni Salil. Wrapping up the issue are the book reviews: Vivek Chadha reviews *A Soldier's General: An Autobiography*, Mandip Singh reviews *Peace is Everybody's Business*; and Harsh V. Pant reviews *Decoding the International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities*.

As JDS enters its six year of publication, it is perhaps a good time to look at what has been achieved over the years. Starting with a single, annual issue in 2007, JDS is now a quarterly publication. In fact, 2012 was a year of great change for the journal, including a new cover and design, and a tie-up with a professional publishing outfit. Over the past five years, JDS' readership has grown, albeit at a slow pace. What is heartening, however, is that as its readership, and consequently its reach, increases, it becomes a platform to showcase a unique discourse on defence studies. In keeping with this, we would like to institute a 'Letters to the Editor' section in the journal. The idea is to engage with our readers, to know what they think about the content of each issue as well as seek their help in making JDS into a world-renowned journal that appeals to the strategic community. I would also like to mention here that the Journal reserves the right to use the letter in its original form and/or modify, carry excerpts from the letters. Letters can be emailed to [associateeditor.jds@gmail.com](mailto:associateeditor.jds@gmail.com).

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