

From the Managing Editor

We have been receiving encouraging feedback from some of the esteemed readers of the *Journal of Defence Studies* (JDS) about the quality of its content and the subjects covered. However, we are also aware that we have quit a distance to travel. With that aim, we are now being more selective in accepting the articles for publication in JDS. The present issue carries four articles and four book reviews. The articles deal with maritime security; the military and political activities of one of the ancient kingdoms of south India; China's peculiar strategy of warfare; and, performance evaluation of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in India.

In 'Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean: The Changing Kaleidoscope', Sarabjeet Singh Parmar opines that the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has not received the importance it deserves as a geo-strategic entity. This could perhaps be due to the fact that two 'hotspots'—the South China Sea and the Persian Gulf—divert the attention of the nation from the IOR. That notwithstanding, the importance of maritime security in the IOR can hardly be ignored in view of the fact that it is an economic lifeline for a large number of countries. The article goes on to examine how the strategic interests of various countries are affecting the maritime security conundrum in the IOR.

In his article 'The Cholas: Some Enduring Issues of State Craft, Military Matters and National Role', P.K. Gautam aims to fill the gap in the rich indigenous historical knowledge about south India by examining the military and political activities of the Chola rulers who employed various strategies to enlarge and sustain their kingdom. He also seeks to provide a link between the modern diplomatic practices with those followed during the Chola period. The article recounts various battles the Cholas fought, the alliances they formed as part of the comprehensive military strategy and goes on to explain some issues of indigenous historical knowledge of that period which is relevant even today.

Abhijit Singh's article 'China's Three Warfares and India' examines China's practice of the media, psychological and legal warfares strategy employed to weaken its adversaries in the areas of its core interests. He

opines that China had so far only employed this strategy against Taiwan and South East Asian nations; however, with its growing influence in South Asia and IOR, China has also started employing this strategy against India. Singh contends that this strategy is aimed at undermining India's organizational foundation and target military morale with a view to force India to concede strategic ground without having to fight.

In 'Strategic Perspective on Growth Faces and Long Term Techno-economic Performance of India's DRDO', co-authors R. Gopaldaswami and G. Sateesh Reddy analyse the major achievement and shortfalls of India's premium defence organization—DRDO. After examining various aspects related to DRDO's functioning, the authors suggest major changes in DRDO to enable it to create indigenous techno-industrial infrastructure and a self-reliant defence industrial base by taking the private sector on board. They have also suggested creating and sustaining India's leadership in advanced systems and technologies through collaborative National Frontier Research projects.

The books reviewed for this issue are *The Rise of Indian Navy: Internal Vulnerabilities, External Challenges* edited by Harsh V. Pant (reviewed by Rakesh Chopra); C. Raja Mohan's *Samudra Manthan: Sino-Indian Rivalry in the Indo-Pacific* (reviewed by Mandip Singh); Kaushik Roy's *Hinduism and the Ethics of Warfare in South Asia: From Antiquity to the Present* (reviewed by Jean Langlois-Berthelot); and Masooda Bano's *Rational Believer: Choices and Decisions in the Madrasas of Pakistan* (reviewed by Y.M. Bammi).

Hope you enjoy reading the articles and book reviews.

Brigadier Rumel Dahiya, SM (Retd.)
Managing Editor