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The last couple of months have witnessed major instances of chemical weapons use by disgruntled individuals and terrorist organizations. Reports of the use of chemical weapons in Syria have greatly disturbed the international community. In another shocking incident, letters containing ricin were sent to the US President Barack Obama. There have also been reports that the Taliban had used chemical agents to poison water sources of a girls' school in Afghanistan.

This issue of CBW is published in the backdrop of the recently concluded Third Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) (April 8 - 19, 2013). In this issue, H. R. Naidu Gade discusses the CWC's accomplishments towards a total elimination of chemical weapons. Rajiv Nayan brings out the possible challenges and the path ahead for the OPCW and CWC.

Sanjeev Shrivastav analyses the incident in which ricin laced letters were sent to the US President Obama.

The country profile section covers the Syrian war and the possible use of chemical weapons and the Kaleidoscope section analyses the late Kenneth Waltz's contribution to the debate on weapons of mass destruction including the chemical and biological weapons.

This issue also features other regular sections like Chemical and Biological News and Book Review.

With our readers' feedback, we wish to publish issues in the future that focus on a subject of particular concern.

**Contributions and feedback are welcome and can be addressed to [editorcbw@gmail.com](mailto:editorcbw@gmail.com) or [gunjsingh@gmail.com](mailto:gunjsingh@gmail.com)**