Editorial

I am pleased to present to the readers the second issue of 2025, which features five articles, four commentaries and a book review. The remaining two issues of this year will be general issues, work on which is already underway. Looking ahead, we are planning a special issue in 2026, for which the 'Call for Papers' will be uploaded on the MP-IDSA website soon.

The evolution of cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, has redefined the concept of national security, from merely ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of a state to facing new challenges in areas such as data security, climate security and human security. Nations are now compelled to re-evaluate and re-think their research and development activities, defence policies, expenditure and technological capabilities. In this context, the first article titled "India's Defence Budget Dynamics: Budget Outlay and the Question of Imbalance", by Mr Rohit and Dr L. Ram, examines the imbalance of India's defence expenditure in light of modern-day technological advancements and evolving threat perceptions, and underscores the need to create synergy between the quality and quantity of manpower, while rebalancing and restructuring of India's military system.

In the second article titled "Enhancing Foreign Language Expertise in the Indian Armed Forces: A Focus on Chinese Language Proficiency", Dr Umesh Kumar Gupta examines the role of foreign language experts, translators and interpreters in the armed forces of various countries and deliberates on the pressing necessity for such expertise in the Indian Armed Forces, especially Chinese language experts. This article emphasises multi-disciplinary collaboration among linguists, defence experts, artificial intelligence specialists and data scientists to enhance research capabilities, and also recommends creating a separate linguists' cadre and recognising and incentivising Chinese language experts in the armed forces.

The next article is titled "Sentiment Analysis for Indian Defence Ecosystem and Armed Forces", in which Lt Col Apurv Gupta examines how Sentiment Analysis has become a game-changing intelligence asset for

modern defence operations, and how integrating it in the overall Military Decision Making Process will enable the Indian Armed Forces to conduct proactive information dominance, neutralise adversarial narrative warfare and enhance strategic situational awareness. This article lays the groundwork for these advancements, offering a roadmap for integrating cutting-edge technology into national security efforts.

In the fourth article titled "The Uncertain War: Decoding India's Two-Front War with China and Pakistan", Col Rajneesh Singh examines the two-front war challenge for India against China and Pakistan. In the context of the India–Pakistan–China triangle, the two terms that merit attention are 'collusion' and 'collaboration', which explain various scenarios of a joint Pakistan–China approach to undermine India's national interest and security. This article explores collusion and collaboration between China and Pakistan and the resultant enhancement in military cooperation between the two countries, and suggests that India must maintain high vigilance, continue strengthening its military posture, and simultaneously engage in proactive diplomacy.

Titled "North Korea's Increasing Military Cooperation with Russia: Implications for India", the fifth article of this issue is authored by Dr Ranjit Kumar Dhawan, in which he explains the possible impact of North Korea–Russia military partnership on India. The article takes into consideration the 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' agreement that North Korea has signed with Russia; India's diplomatic relationship with North Korea under the 'Act East Policy'; North Korea's nuclear proliferation activities with Pakistan, and the possibility of Russian space, nuclear and military technologies reaching Pakistan through North Korea; and lastly, implications for India's relationship with the Quad members in the context of its longstanding partnership with Russia.

This issue also features four commentaries—"Can India and China Break Free from the Triangle of Conflict at the Border?", by Ms Akankshya Ray; "Multi-Domain Operations: Air Force as the Central Node", by Wg Cdr Ankit Abbott; "Kautilya's *Arthashastra*: The Intellectual Foundations of Ancient Indian Political Thought", by Dr Kajari Kamal; and "Pre-emption, Precision and Perception: Strategic and Doctrinal Lessons for India from Operations *Rising Lion* and *Midnight Hammer*", by Lt Gen A.B. Shivane. A book review of Dylan M.H Loh's book *China's Rising Foreign Ministry: Practices and Representations of Assertive Diplomacy*, by Mr Rahul Pandey is also featuring in this issue.

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

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