

# Note from the Editor

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Winter 2017 edition of the CLAWS Journal to all our readers. This edition brings together a bunch of research papers and articles on a diverse range of security-related subjects pertaining South Asia. Beginning with the subject of nuclear brinkmanship and its lessons for South Asia, the Journal discusses the practice of nuclear brinkmanship by Pakistan for the past decade and half, and how it has been the prime cause for continuing regional instability. The standoff in summer/autumn 2017 between North Korea and the US and its allies including Japan owing to the nuclear testing and missile launches by Pyongyang has brought the subject of nuclear brinkmanship to the fore.

The focus on China and the continuing challenge that it poses to India has been deliberated upon at length with papers on how the Doklam episode underlines Chinese revisionism and re-interpretation of history. The defining trends of Asia's colonial past during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, for that matter, seem to be continuing to cast a shadow on the ensuing century and Asia's future that remains weaved with it. Moreover, the recent trends in China's approach towards India suggests that while China does express its intention to undertake greater international responsibilities, the fact remains that it maintains the Party's line of exclusive ownership in whatever it undertakes, as was apparent during China's 19<sup>th</sup> Party Congress.

The current edition also includes essays on how advancement in warfare technology is redefining the shape and contours of war and conflict in the future. As technology provides the means for warfare to become more lethal, this lethality provides militaries the means to inflict far greater destruction and casualties to military personnel and civilians,

in smaller spaces and in speedier timeframes. Going by current trends, future warfare will most likely be ‘hybrid’ in nature. Further, in the realm of hypersonic technology and weapons, a new arms race is dawning with hypersonic weapons set to revolutionise the strategic military space. This in turn would influence national security strategies, military doctrines and possibly the organisations and force structures.

The Journal also delves into a paper that argues against Article 35A of the Indian Constitution that empowers the Jammu and Kashmir state’s legislature to provide special rights and privileges to ‘permanent’ residents. Finally, this edition carries commentaries on sustenance of military capability in India’s defence preparedness, the relevance of ‘Red Teaming’ in strategic military decision–making and the new threat vector in South Asia’s milieu.

On behalf of the editorial team of the Journal, I hope that this issue will contribute towards the overall conceptual and operational thinking regarding the themes elaborated above by furthering enrichment and focus of the discourse. As always, I look forward to your feedback and comments, and wish all our readers a very happy and prosperous 2018!

**Dr Monika Chansoria**  
**Managing Editor**  
CLAWS Journal