

From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief



With this edition, Scholar Warrior completes two years and in a sense has come of age. 2011 finished on a rather optimistic note for the nation with insurgency levels all across the country showing encouraging declining trends. This highlights the effectiveness of anti insurgency operations carried out by the Army in Jammu and Kashmir and in the affected states in North East India. While the overall environment remains peaceful, Left Wing Extremism still remains a cause for serious concern. A CLAWS study has been completed which dwells on all aspects of LWE. This has been disseminated to the environment. In this issue we are also carrying an article on evaluating the role of civil militias in counter insurgency.

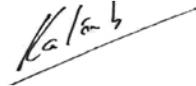
The last year was also the 40th Anniversary of the 1971 Indo-Pak Conflict. Much has already been written and said about the brilliant success achieved by the Indian Army in the Eastern Theatre. This issue gives an insight into the strategic backdrop and conduct of operations in the Western Sector. While confines of space dictate the need for brevity, the aim has been to give as complete a picture as possible as to how the war unfolded over the fortnight.

China's military development continues to be one of our major focus areas. We have therefore covered the integrated military exercises carried out by China in Tibet and China's response to Indian Military presence in the border regions. A detailed assessment has also been made of the modernisation of the ground forces of the People's Liberation Army. This would be useful as a reference material to our readers.

The Gilgit-Baltistan Area of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir is coming increasingly into focus. Lying on our Northern borders, the region is of great strategic importance and concern to India. The presence of a large number of Chinese personnel ostensibly for the purpose of road construction and other development activities in the region thus needs to be closely watched. Another issue is the simmering undercurrent of resentment against Pakistani occupation in Gilgit-Baltistan. Sectarian killings too are on the increase and the latest incident of Shia bus passengers being killed by Sunni extremists point to emerging fault lines on the sectarian front. An article by a resident of Gilgit-Baltistan has therefore been

included, which gives out an overview of the problem in this region and highlights the reason to be concerned. This issue of the Scholar Warrior also covers some aspects of Pakistan's Air Defence Systems and the Ghazi Force.

On the regional front, the situation in Syria and Afghanistan has been analysed. The situation in Afghanistan especially needs to be monitored in view of the proposed drawdown of US forces from the region in 2014. Some reports suggest that this could even be expedited considering that support for the war is on the decline in the United States. Issues pertaining to cyber warfare and military technology have been also covered as hitherto fore. This time however, we have also included an article each on the Rafale fighter aircraft and the induction of the C130J Super Hercules aircraft into the Indian Air Force. Finally, in the motivation section we have covered the Battle of Saragarhi, perhaps one of the most epic battles ever fought, signifying courage and heroism of the greatest order. We wish you all 'Happy Reading'. Your feedback as always is welcome.



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Scholar Warrior