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Note from the Editor

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Summer 2017 edition of the *CLAWS Journal*—an amalgamation of a wide-range of research papers and commentaries on subjects pertaining national security and defence, while concurrently deliberating upon the policy options available.

Owing to his political capital, association with the PLA, and having witnessed military diplomacy up close, Xi Jinping's control over the PLA is far greater as compared to Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin, who struggled to coagulate their authority during their respective tenures. This edition discusses at length, subjects including the Communist Party of China's political control over the PLA, the emergence of space as a future pivot of strategic stability, hybrid war and India's preparedness, and more significantly, the fourth wave of deterrence and its application in the age of nuclear terrorism. The elements or components of strategic stability are dynamic, and fundamentally based on the international political environment and other determinants, expanded with technology. Hybrid warfare can graduate to theatre and conventional wars because it would not achieve a decisive victory in a conflict with a state. This kind of war has demonstrated that non-state actors with state patronage are waging war against states by fighting within the nation and eroding the authority of the state over its territory and resources. On the specific issue of the army, the Journal puts forth a view on introspection and rebuilding the senior leadership in the Indian Army, whilst also debating India's higher defence and the pitfalls and future of its organisation and management.

Besides, the case study of Syria, Yemen and Ukraine, and the larger issue of oscillation between preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution, and countenance of the United Nations have been elaborated upon. The Journal presents a perspective that preventive diplomacy under the United Nations' stewardship has failed to prevent the civil war in Syria, Yemen, Ukraine and elsewhere. Another set of papers delve into the realm of social

media and the Indian Army's new-age soldier, disruptive technologies in contemporary conflict, and sub-surface turmoil in the Indian Ocean.

The Editorial Team hopes that this edition of the *CLAWS Journal* will contribute towards the overall conceptual and operational thinking regarding the subjects elaborated earlier, thus furthering enrichment and focus of the strategic discourse. As always, I eagerly await your feedback and comments.

Dr Monika Chansoria

Managing Editor

CLAWS Journal

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The Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), New Delhi is an autonomous thinktank dealing with national security and conceptual aspects of land warfare, including conventional, sub-conventional conflict and terrorism. CLAWS conducts research that is futuristic in outlook and policy oriented in approach.

The vision of the CLAWS is to develop a 'strategic culture' to bring about synergy in decision making both at national and operational levels. Since its inception, CLAWS has established itself as one of the leading 'think tanks' in the country. To achieve its vision, CLAWS conducts seminars (at Delhi and with commands), round table discussions and meetings with academia and intellectuals of strategic community both from India and abroad. CLAWS also comes out with a number of publications pertaining to national and regional security and various issues of land warfare.

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