

Note from the Editor

It is with immense pleasure that I present to all our readers, the Winter 2016 edition of the CLAWS Journal. This issue puts together a bunch of articles on a diverse range of security-related subjects, with special emphasis on the theme: India's national security policy and decision-making. A nation's national security strategy is the pivot of securing the nation-state and safeguarding its primary and secondary national interests. The national security policy and strategy of any nation includes securing it from external and internal threats by working in synergy with the country's foreign policy apparatus in order to ensure that diplomacy plays a buttressing role to the larger military component in sustaining the essential tenets and goals of national security that remain embedded in national interest. This holds true, more so, since the principles of deterrence are rooted in the foundational premise of the physical and operational domain, but tend to convey signalling by psychological means.

The current edition includes essays on the policy-making prism in India's national security, the imperatives of integrating defence policy in national security strategy-making, and how a bolstered conventional and nuclear deterrent would be critical in ultimately securing India's future. As far as defence matters are concerned, the policy thrust appears to be more on defence procurement, manufacturing and indigenisation. For the military deterrence to be strong, based on modern capability, sound doctrines and high levels of preparedness, India's capability development agenda still invariably faces challenges of budget constraints, resulting in the 'guns versus butter' debate at every given stage. India's defence establishment needs to articulate a national defence policy, and such a policy must flow from a written national security strategy—that should be

formulated at the earliest. India has been a status quo power, remaining inward-focussed for centuries—an approach caused by successive invasions and subjugation, and reactive policies ever since it gained independence in 1947.

As far as the security calculus is concerned, a change must occur in national policies, to reprioritise India's order of national interests, defend the nation beyond its borders, and create structures to implement a grand strategy. For this to become a reality, investments in the space and cyber realm need to be prioritised, given that outer space and cyber space have emerged as the new enablers for nations, enhancing speed and efficiency of national security and socio-economic efforts, and providing novel applications for the same. With China's emerging stance on Kashmir and its near-permanent presence in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir becoming more crystallised, the question looming large is whether India remains prepared for facing, and countering, a hybrid war in the future? On behalf of the Editorial Team of the Journal, I hope that this issue will contribute towards the overall thinking regarding the issues 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 happy and prosperous 2017!

Dr Monika Chansoria
Managing Editor
CLAWS Journal