

From the Desk of the Editor

Synergy, jointness and optimisation of resources are the key imperatives for winning a war as the Indian armed forces move towards integrated command structures in the coming years. All war-fighting resources under a single commander will pay rich dividends by reducing the decision loop and the time cycle for optimised employment. The creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is the first nascent step and the coming decade is likely to see means of stretching the defence budget to meet the procurement targets, and the emergence of Integrated Commands as a viable entity. This aspect forms the theme of our first article which discusses military modernisation in the era of limited budgets.

The sections within the journal have been revised from this issue onwards and reduced to five from the earlier nine sections. The first section on National Security, Land Warfare and Strategy covers the impact of the US drawdown in Afghanistan on the neighbourhood. The next article focusses on actions which can force Pakistan to change its Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) narrative. Turmoil in the Middle East and its likely fallout on India's energy requirement comprises the last article of the first section. The next section covers articles on India's Neighbourhood. In this section, the articles range from Pakistan's religious diplomacy, China's model of investing in countries for its oil security, China's outreach in the neighbourhood and India's options to have beneficial relations with Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal, to the last article which explores ways to exploit the internal fault-lines in Pakistan.

The third section dwells on Military Technology and War Systems. Here, the focus is on applications of prototype printing, weapon systems showcased in China's 70th anniversary parade, and the emerging trends in artillery systems. The last article of the section carries a scan on Pakistan's X Corps as the first step towards learning about our adversary which will be followed by coverage of all its formations in the coming issues.

The fourth section extols the valour and bravery of our soldiers during various operations. The first heliborne landing by the Indian Army during the 1971 Indo-Pak War is covered in the first article. The second article lauds the indomitable courage of Brigadier Sant Singh, MVC and Bar, who was nominated four times for the MVC for his extraordinary exploits. In the last section, we lay focus on another account of valour during the 1971 Indo-Pak War by covering the exploits of 1 MARATHA LI. Articles on Balochistan and Arakan conflict also form part of this section.

We solicit details of unit level actions and acts of valour in various unit level actions which, at times, miss out the limelight due to unforeseen constraints. The acts of valour of all our heroes need to be highlighted and we will be happy to publish these. Relevant maps and sketches would be welcome.

Happy Reading



Col Ashwani Gupta
Editor