

Editorial

The *Journal of Defence Studies* completed 15 years of its existence in 2021. This important milestone could not have been celebrated in a better way than bringing out two consecutive special issues titled ‘Exploring the Roots of India’s Strategic Culture’ and ‘50 Years Later: 1971 India–Pakistan War’, which have taken the journal to new heights, as words of appreciation continue to pour in from several readers and eminent personalities. As we enter the 16th year, we intend to publish a special issue on ‘United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Lessons, Trends and Future Prospects’. With hope and optimism that the journal will continue to evolve, we bring to you the first issue of this year.

The present issue carries three articles, two commentaries and two book reviews. The first article titled ‘A Game Theoretic Analysis for Ladakh Standoff, 2020’, is by Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh. As the title suggests, it is a game theoretic analysis for the Ladakh standoff of 2020. Deriving a more flexible game, known as De-escalation game, by incorporating the concepts of retaliation and non-escalation probabilities in the Prisoner’s Dilemma game, the article shows that many new possibilities open up for India, as it can not only impose penalty on the aggressor, but also decide the intensity of the retaliatory actions, as per the perceived threat. This allows India to dissuade the aggressor without risking a war or accepting defeat. The article also presents a qualitative analysis and indicates steps India may consider for deterring China against such blatant aggressive acts in future.

The second article titled ‘Evaluating Jointness in the Indian Military: A Conceptual and Methodological Approach’, by Dr Ladhu R. Choudhary, evaluates the degree of jointness in the Indian military and assesses the impact of defence reforms carried out by the present government on institutionalisation of jointness. Using Aaron P. Jackson’s model, it evaluates four aspects of jointness—operational, organisational, educational and doctrinal—in the Indian military. The article emphasises that the government needs to build up an ecosystem of ownership for jointness both at the civilian and military levels—on the civilian front, by enacting a parliamentary act to institutionalise jointness; and at the

military end, by inculcating joint culture through education, training, doctrines and rewards.

The third article is written by Maj Gen Minan Sinulingga, Col Goki Sihombing of the Indonesian Armed Forces and Rendy Ananta Prasetya of Indonesian Defense University. Titled 'Formation of Reserve Components of the Indonesian Armed Forces: SWOT Analysis', the article emphasises the need of a total defence system in Indonesia that integrates the capabilities of military and non-military to tackle the threats in strategic environment that are multidimensional in nature. The article uses SWOT research method, taking into account the internal factors (strengths, weaknesses) and external factors (opportunities, threats) as tools used for strategic planning and strategic management. The employment of citizens in creation of reserve forces for land, sea and air domains using SWOT analysis is studied, and an integrative approach to politics, economics, society, culture and geography is recommended.

Two commentaries also feature in this issue. The first commentary 'Bridge on the Bay', by Maj Gen VS Ranade, Retd, talks about how the India's Look East or Act East Policy rides on the regional cooperation in Southeast Asian region and that our north-east region is the engine to further our cause. The second commentary 'Swarm Drones and Indian Academia', by Group Captain A. Karunakaran, places emphasis on research and development in the unarmed aerial vehicles (UAV) sector and technology back-up from academia for building a strong ecosystem for speedy, quality design and development of Swarm Drones.

The issue also includes two book reviews: *Battle Ready for the 21st Century*, edited by Lieutenant General A.K. Singh and Brigadier Narender Kumar, reviewed by Major General PK Chakravorty, Retd; and *Institutions that Shaped India: DRDO*, by Ravi Kumar Gupta, reviewed by Dr Laxman Kumar Behera.

We hope that this issue would find resonance with our readers and serve to inform and educate on key issues. We thank the authors and the referees who assisted us in the peer review process and would like to hear more from our readers about topics they feel should be addressed by the journal. Do write to the Associate Editor, *Journal of Defence Studies* at jds.mpidsa@gov.in. We hope that along with our growing readership, we would also see more contributions to future issues.

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