

## Editorial

The current issue of the *Journal of Defence Studies* carries for its readers two insightful articles on civil military relations, and the Internet of Things (IoT) and its growing importance in the military domain and a review article on nuclear weapons.

In ‘Broadening the Education for Synergetic Civil–Military Relations’, Pradeep Kumar Gautam discusses how statecraft, diplomacy and warfare are not only a matter of brute force, but also a function of scholarship to understand the past, present and future of the art, science and literature of national and international security. The key idea Gautam articulates in the article is that it is not only the military that needs to balance training and education; it is also the other stakeholders, namely, politicians, civil servants/technocrats and the academicians, that need to do the same. In other words, education needs to be imparted by a professional both to the military and the remaining stakeholders: the political leadership, civil servants/bureaucracy, and the academic community. Moreover, this needs to be a sustained effort. This, opines the author, will lead to building healthy CMR that can further improve the formulating and execution of well-informed, and thus superior, strategies. It will also result in a better informed political leadership, military, civilian bureaucracy, and society at large on the larger issue of war and peace.

Atul Pant’s article—‘Internet of Things Centricity of Future Military Operations’—looks at how network centricity has profoundly transformed warfighting and the outlook of the military since the last decade of the twentieth century. In an earlier article published in the journal, Pant had demonstrated the centricity of AI in future warfare; this article is a similar attempt to shed light on the centricity of IoT in future military operations. IoT has already started to disruptively change the ways in the civil domain, bringing a considerable autonomy to various processes by the linking together of a plethora of smart devices that are virtually ‘talking’ to each other. It is thus understood that in the near future, militaries too are likely to see similar proliferation of IoT

that will lead to significant changes to their functioning and conduct of operations. In this article, the author comprehensively analyses the various facets of IoT and the military domains, and makes a case for the IoT centrality of future military operations based on the IoT concept, IoT-led future shaping of the things, challenges and developmental trajectories of major powers.

Nazir Ahmed Mir contributes a review article to the issue, titled 'In Awe of the Atom: Proliferation, Threats and Costs of Nuclear Management', wherein he reviews in depth three recent titles on nuclear issues: *Small State Behavior in Strategic and Intelligence Studies: David's Sling*, by Patrick C. Coaty; *Pakistan's Nuclear Bomb: A Story of Defiance, Deterrence and Deviance*, by Hassan Abbas; and *Brokering Peace in Nuclear Environments: U.S. Crisis Management in South Asia*, by Moeed Yusuf. Mir aims to analyse the problem of nuclear proliferation and security of the nuclear states. Coaty and Abbas's books emphasise that achieving nuclear weapons is a complicated process, requires rigorous technological processing, involves scientists of great competence, incurs high costs and is not without politics. Apart from being weapons of deterrence, nuclear weapons remain a matter of prestige and recognition for states in international politics. The article argues that security continues to remain a concern as nuclear weapons have not only raised stakes given their potential to unleash Armageddon but have also not addressed the conventional/sub-conventional ways of war as they continue unabatedly. This has, as argued by Yusuf in his book, invited a third-party mediation to avoid potential use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons, therefore, have raised the costs of security and risks of their unintentional use either due to some misperception or due to egoistic nature of people who may be in control of them.

Also included in the issue are five book reviews: Suriya Narayanan reviews *Rebel Law: Insurgents, Courts and Justice in Modern Conflict*; Michael Liebig reviews *Kautilya and Non-Western IR Theory*; M. Dorai Babu reviews *India and China at Sea: Competition for Naval Dominance in the Indian Ocean*; Rajrajeshwari Singh reviews *The Generation of Rage in Kashmir*; and Manas Dutta reviews *India and World War II: War, Armed Forces, and Society, 1939-45*.