

Editorial

The final issue of the *Journal of Defence Studies* for 2019 features four richly detailed articles covering a wide spectrum of issues, including privatisation of defence industry, the relationship between ethics and institutional functioning in the armed forces, the recent unveiling and deployment of China's DF-41 ballistic missile, and a new conceptual framework for the assessment of success/failure of peacekeeping operations. With this issue, the *Journal of Defence Studies* completes 13 years of publishing research on key aspects of defence as well as military and strategic studies, for a wide-ranging audience.

In 'The Long-term Effects of UK Defence Privatisation: Lessons for India?', Jonathan S. Swift argues that the privatisation of defence has failed to achieve the objectives of increased competition between producers leading to increased choice and reduced costs for the purchasers. Instead, costs have increased, choice has decreased and much of the equipment supplied to the United Kingdom (UK) Armed Forces is now sourced wholly or partially from foreign suppliers. This has led to a situation where the nation is dangerously exposed to potential interferences in the supply, and replacement, of weaponry and munitions for political reasons. In effect, privatisation has replaced a national monopoly, over which the government had control, with a foreign private monopoly, over which the government has very little control. The UK's experience of defence privatisation could hold pertinent lessons for India, especially since we have undertaken a similar restructuring process over the past few years and are looking more and more at indigenisation of the defence equipment acquisition and manufacturing processes.

Ankush Banerjee's contribution to the issue focuses on the importance of imparting and applying ethics with respect to the armed forces. In 'Understanding Ethical Behaviour towards Better Institutional Functioning in the Armed Forces', he describes how at the heart of ethical choices lies the complex interplay between individual intentions and environmental vectors. In a high-pressure and 24x7 work environment, factors such as stress, misguided motivations and the failure to handle

positional power only serve to highlight the importance of ethics in an individual's approach. Banerjee discusses how ethical dilemmas are often laden with inherent individual subjectivities, making it difficult to arrive at a singularly agreeable distinction between 'right' and 'wrong'. He asks and answers the questions: why do individuals transgress? Why do individuals give and take bribes? Why is it so difficult to report a course mate? This timely and important article investigates the behavioural realm of ethics through the application of various principles from the newly emerging field of behavioural ethics, in order to expand the individual and organisational understanding of ethics and morality in the broader context of the military paradigm.

On the 70th anniversary of its founding on 1 October 2019, the Chinese military showcased for the first time in public the DF-41 ballistic missile, which has been under development for over two decades. M.S. Prathibha's article—'China's DF-41 Ballistic Missile Deployment and the Impact on its Nuclear Deterrence'—is one of the first detailed assessments of the missile and the country's nuclear stand. Prathibha writes that the deployment of the DF-41 ballistic missile in China shows that the nature of its nuclear posture is at a critical juncture of evolution. On the one hand, the deployment illustrates the achievements in Chinese missile modernisation, which poses a threat to the United States (US) deterrence capacity. On the other hand, it exposes the limitations in its deployment patterns. She opines that, far from the expected and seamless transition from solid to liquid-fuelled missiles, China's diversification plan of deploying the DF-41 along with improved liquid-fuelled Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) shows that its faith in the solid-based propellant missiles remains limited at present.

In the over seven decades since its inception, the United Nations (UN) has undertaken a considerable number, and variety, of peacekeeping operations. Yet, it cannot boast of too many successes. Most peace operations have come under serious criticism on account of lack of operational capability and unwillingness on the part of peacekeepers to implement the mandate. It is worth noting that while the UN is in the process of establishing a clear framework for performance evaluation of such operations, as of now there are no standard criteria to judge the performance of a peace operation. Therefore, terming peacekeeping operations as failures would be unfair; moreover, peace operation missions cannot be held accountable only on grounds of their inability to implement the mandate. Thus, for an objective assessment there is a

need for standardising the success criteria, and for this a new conceptual framework for evaluation is essential. In 'A Conceptual Framework for Assessing Traditional Peace Operations', A.K. Bardalai makes an attempt to develop such a conceptual framework for evaluating peace operations. India has a rich legacy of participation in UN peace operations and is a major troop-contributing country to such operations. The suggested framework in Bardalai's article could help India to pitch in with its own share of contribution to the development process of the framework for performance evaluation.

The issue also includes four book reviews: Kishore Kumar Khara reviews *Why We Fight*, by Mike Martin; Vivek Chadha reviews *The McMahon Line: A Century of Discord*, by J.J. Singh; Smruti Pattnaik reviews *Guardians of God: Inside the Religious Mind of Pakistani Taliban*, by Mona Kanwal Sheikh; and Zainab Akhtar reviews *Gilgit-Baltistan and its Saga of Unending Human Rights Violations*, by Alok Bansal.

