

# CURRENT JOURNAL CONTENTS

*A Monthly Current Information Service*



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DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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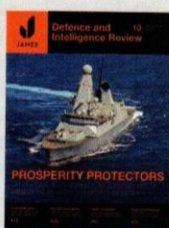
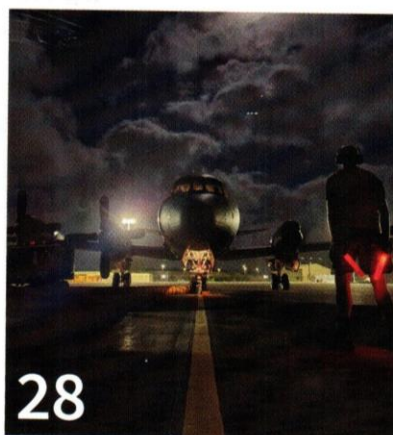
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HMS *Diamond* pictured in February this year during Operation 'Prosperity Guardian'. The Type 45 destroyer supported security efforts in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to ensure freedom of navigation for all. This month, *JDIR* looks at how the RN's Type 45s are being upgraded to ensure they remain relevant in modern theatres. UK MoD/Crown Copyright: 2043548

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European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and French President Emmanuel Macron attend a summit on migration in Malta on 29 September 2023.

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### WAR, PEACE AND JUSTICE IN A TRANSFORMING WORLD

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#### THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

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The state of Israel was created in 1948 after Britain ended its mandate over Palestine. The UN proposed partitioning the area into Arab and Jewish States and Arab states that opposed the UN plan were defeated. Israel fought wars against its Arab neighbours in 1967 and 1973, coupled with occupation of the West Bank and Gaza strip in the 1967 war. The Israeli government has periodically clashed with Palestine Liberation Groups. The United States has been spearheading most of the peace processes in the conflict without much positive impact. Few questions this paper seeks to analyse include; why is the Palestine-Israel conflict unending? How impactful were the various peace processes? Who are the actors involved in the peace process? In a bid to explain the intractability of the Israel-Palestine conflict, the emergence of several movements such as the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and Hamas, and the peace processes that were difficult to implement, the One or Two State solutions and recent hostilities are issues analyzed by *S Krishnan*.

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#### CHINA BROKERS A PEACE DEAL IN PALESTINE

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##### ISRAEL ITCHES FOR WAR

*Sandhya Jain* retraces the evolution of the conflict in West Asia, marked by the escalation of the Israeli operations in Gaza and of the reciprocal attacks between Hezbollah and the IDF. Prime Minister Netanyahu has so far derailed the negotiations for a ceasefire and a prisoner swap that threaten his tenuous hold on power. The Israeli Government and its US backers are worried about China's successful initiative in support of a United National Reconciliation Government to rule Gaza. China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab and African states are behind the 'Beijing Declaration on Ending Division and Strengthening Palestinian Unity' whereas Iran is heightening its collaboration with Hezbollah, Syria, the Iraqi Islamic Resistance, and Yemen's Houthis.

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#### STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN KAZAKHSTAN

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##### EXPLORING A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP

The 20th and 21st centuries have seen the revival of a civil society with two unique features, i.e., non-Euro-centrism and inclusiveness. The history of the growth and development of civil society in Kazakhstan is part of that global process. *Sanghamitra Parida* and *Krushna Chichuan* investigate the relationship between civil society and state in Kazakhstan through non-Western lens. That is to say, the aim here is to study the compatibility of civil society which is regarded as of Western origin, with the state in Kazakhstan and to ascertain whether the nature of civil society is different or if Kazakhstan adopts the American concept. The paper argues that there is a need to go beyond the Western notion of civil society and search for alternative approaches to take care of Kazakhstan's indigenous culture, tradition, society, way of life and so on. Above all, the claim here is that the uniqueness of civil society in Kazakhstan is manifest in the relationship of clans and traditional institutions with civil society organisations.

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**APPLICATION OF ISLAMIC CRIMINAL LAW IN MALAYSIA** 58  
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*Asif Mohiuddin* provides a comprehensive overview of the implementation of Islamic criminal law in Malaysia calling attention to the ongoing dialogue regarding its efficacy. The paper explores the various viewpoints, with a focus on the political groups like Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS) and United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) that have been involved in the debate. The paper emphasises the importance of communication and involvement across political and social groups in Malaysia with a view to tackling the challenging difficulties and conflicts that frequently occur in the administration of Islamic law. Any effective response to these difficult problems must be based on a thorough comprehension of the social, legal and historical contexts and must take into account the diverse perspectives and opinions of the Malaysian people.

**INDIA'S CHANGING INTERNATIONAL ROLE**

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**TIME TO REDEFINE INDIA'S MILITARY DOCTRINE** 82

India has embarked on a process of reorganisation of its national defence structure based on the concept of theaterisation already implemented by several other major military powers. Theaterisation includes appointing a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and integrating assets and resources of the three services under unified regional commands belonging to one of them. However this organisational reform raises hierarchical precedence issues and has met with opposition, particularly from the Indian Air Force, concerned about the implied dispersal of its personnel and material among various army- and navy-centric regional theatres. *Rahul Dev* notes that further reflection and debate is needed before this strategic transformation can be fully carried out.

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**INDIA-US DEFENCE COOPERATION** 94  
**NEW IMPERATIVE AND CHALLENGES**

India-US relations are currently regarded as one of the century's most important geopolitical factors. India's third-largest defence supplier at the moment is the US and one of its biggest trading partners. Despite their defence collaboration, India and the US do not have an easy relationship. The paper examines recent developments between India and the US, including the Quad agreement, Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US recently and its results, India's balancing act in the Russia-Ukraine war, the US's security concerns in South Asia and the Asia Pacific, and other related issues. *Muralidhar Barik* and *Manasi Singh* expect that India will expand and deepen its partnership with the United States while remaining strategically autonomous and multi-aligned.

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**INDIA AND EURASIA IN THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD** 104  
**A "NEW GREAT GAME" OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY?**

Post-Soviet Eurasia attracts rival powers because of its strategic location, mineral wealth and geopolitical vulnerability. India has cultural and economic connections with the region that go back thousands of years and enjoys a privileged relationships with the Russian Federation which has a preponderant position in Central Asia. Iran, another important player in that region, also has ancient and friendly ties with New Delhi and can provide access through the International North-South Transport Corridor. The five Eurasian states generally welcome opportunities for cooperation and partnership with India through bilateral and multilateral channels. *Prithvi Ram Mudiam* argues that India's growing engagement in that vast area meets with almost unanimous consent internationally.

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## INDIA AND SPACE DIPLOMACY IN THE ASEAN REGION 124

The Indo-Pacific region in the 21st century has become the epicentre of world politics. The ongoing struggle for power between the USA and China has made the region important in international politics. From the perspective of New Delhi, the region has become vital in view of its geographical and cultural links with India. Strategically, ASEAN as a collective body has been seen as a power centre in the emerging multi-polar world order. It is imperative for India to form deep-rooted relationships with ASEAN countries. Initiatives like “Look East Policy” and “Act East Policy” convey the message that India is well aware of its geo-strategic importance. *Baruna Kumar Behera* argues for space diplomacy in this region to further cement its strategic interests. In the domain of space technology, there are three Asian space powers, China, Japan and India. China and Japan have institutionalised their space diplomacy, whereas India has to do a lot in this regard. This paper suggests that India gift a satellite to ASEAN countries as a strategic gesture of good will.

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## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AS A TOOL OF INDIA'S SOFT POWER 136

India's growing Information Technology (IT) sector has emerged as a formidable soft power source, projecting the nation's capabilities on the global stage. With a robust ecosystem comprising world-class talent, innovative startups, and established tech giants, India has cemented its position as a powerhouse in IT services, software development, and digital solutions. *Kriti* points out that, India's IT expertise has played a pivotal role in driving digital transformation worldwide, empowering businesses, governments, and individuals alike. India leverages its IT prowess to foster diplomatic relations, promote cultural exchange, and enhance its global standing. Furthermore, Indian IT professionals, renowned for their skills and adaptability, serve as cultural ambassadors, fostering cross-border collaborations and enriching global innovation ecosystems. Nowadays, India has successfully demonstrated its capabilities through Flipkart, Smartbox, Ola, OYO, and virtual influencers, which represent the technical expertise of Indian soft power to the world.

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### ADDRESSING SECURITY CONCERNS

The issue of refugees in India is a complex one, particularly when it comes to ensuring their safety and protection while addressing security concerns. The Indian government has implemented various policies and initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of refugees, but there are still many challenges to be met. This includes ensuring that refugees are not subjected to violence, discrimination, or other forms of abuse, and that they have access to basic services and legal protection. At the same time, it is also important to address the security concerns that arise when accepting refugees, particularly in a country like India that is already dealing with significant strategic security risks. *Beena* highlights the need for a balanced approach to national security imperatives while ensuring the safety and welfare of refugees.

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