

Editorial

The year 2022 was quite eventful for the *Journal of Defence Studies*, with the publication of two special issues titled “United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Lessons, Trends and Future Prospects” and “Future of Military Unmanned Systems in India”, both of which were released by the Chief of Defence Staff in December 2022. It is heartening to see that our content is being received well by so many readers. We have lost count of the appreciation mails and letters received over the last one year, not only for the special issues but also for the general issues.

With renewed enthusiasm and motivation, we bring to you the first issue of this year’s volume.

Over the years, cyber threats have emerged as a major concern, with many countries constantly contesting in cyberspace with adversaries having different goals, skills, resources and determination. It is clear that conflict in cyberspace cannot be wished away, and militaries will have to play an important role in tackling such threats. Hence, it is important to study how the militaries of major cyber powers have conceptualised the cyber-environment, and how it is being re-shaped by the cyber domain constantly. With this background, the first article titled “Militaries in Cyberspace: Approaches, Expectations and Outcomes”, by Dr Cherian Samuel, analyses the cyber force structures of the United Kingdom, Israel and Russia, to draw out the underlying logic behind the creation and modifications that the military in particular has gone through over a period of time.

Not too long ago, Starlink, a satellite internet constellation owned by Elon Musk, was in the news, for being actively involved in guiding Ukrainian military drones and missiles against Russian military positions, thus becoming party to the ongoing Russia–Ukraine War. The second article titled “Starlink’s Role in Ukraine: Portent of a Space War?”, by Col Kaushik Ray and Dr William Selvamurthy, discusses how Starlink’s participation in an international war without formal US governmental authorisation, has triggered off a chain reaction that

can lead to the first war in space, especially since Russia declared that it would destroy Starlink's assets in space. The article discusses how a possible Russian retaliation against Starlink has the potential to draw US out of its strategic forbearance, and entangle it directly in the Ukraine conflict, with grim consequences for many.

The third article titled "India's Civilisational Ties with the World: An Underexplored Theme in India's Soft Power Discourse", by Dr Arpita Mitra, highlights the civilisational asset that India possesses and its potential for enhancing soft power, that is, its historical and cultural ties with different parts of the world. The article discusses in detail how India's cultural footprints in the world have figured in its soft power discourse, the challenges being faced and goes on to suggest some policy recommendations to extend the scope of soft power exercises further.

Considering the dynamics of threats being faced by India, with several new threats coming to the forefront, the role of the Union government in managing internal security problems in the states has increased considerably. In this light, the deployment of Central Armed Forces in the states has become crucial. In the fourth article titled "*Concordia Discors*: Deployment of Central Armed Forces in the Federal Units of India", Dr N. Manoharan and Ms Niharika Singh Rana discuss in detail the rationale for the deployment of Central forces in the states, the legal cover and the state of civil power in the states during such deployment. They refer to various primary sources such as the Indian Constituent Assembly Debates, the Constitution, pertinent legislations, parliamentary debates, judicial pronouncements, and government reports in the article, and conclude with some policy recommendations.

This issue features six commentaries covering a wide range of topics such as: the journey of the Indian Armed Forces since Independence and the way forward (by Amb Sujan R. Chinoy); the geo-economic implications of the conflict in Ukraine (by Dr Rajan Katoch); China's Bagamoyo Port Project and its implications for India (by Capt Sibapada Rath); terror attack prediction using Twitter data (by Shri Ranjit Mishra); a comparison of Kautilya's *Arthashastra* and *Chanakya Niti* (by Col P.K. Gautam); and the strategic importance of the 'Siliguri Corridor' also called the 'Chicken's Neck' of India (by Maj Gen V.S. Ranade). The issue also features two book reviews.

We hope that the issue will be received well by our readers. We would also like to 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. We hope that along with our growing readership, we would also see more contributions to future issues.

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