

Note from the Editor

“Victory comes from finding opportunities in problems”

—Sun Tzu

While planning for the *CLAWS Journal* Summer Issue 2020 was in progress, the world was, and is continuing to fight a different battle altogether—‘a faceless enemy’ in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. This *Issue* also occurs at the time when a series of transformations in the world in terms of conceptual understandings of various phenomena, precedence of non-traditional securities over conventional ones, challenges and threats to strategic assets emanating from advancement in technology, empowerment of social media as the fifth state, etc. are at the forefront. All of these changing dynamics are noteworthy especially from a land warfare perspective.

It is well realised that war is no longer restricted to the ground or the air; it has its spread in cyber, electronic, space and psychological domains. Therefore, keeping in mind the wider domain of warfare, the much-needed step towards meeting the future challenges to India’s security came with the announcement of the creation of the post of the CDS and DMA. With progressive changes in the organisational structures, greater synergy will be achieved between the armed forces, to bolster the operational preparedness of the “Men in Uniform” as also to provide a robust logistics system to them.

Traditionally, the concept of national security was always associated with protection of territorial integrity of country’s borders against any external aggression. Post Cold War, much greater stress has been laid on security of the people through sustainable human development

programmes. All threats and challenges that impact ‘human security’ are a part of non-traditional dimension of national security. Just as COVID-19 owes its origin to biological sources, environmental security, a part of the non-traditional security challenge, is closely linked with environmental degradation that affects wellness of human beings and all living and non-living organisms. The environmental degradation is leading to climate change, global warming, massive air pollution, water pollution, and loss of flora, fauna, and habitat across the world. Moreover, as the environmental cover degrades, the country becomes vulnerable to security threats like insurgency, cross-border terrorism, internal conflicts, displacement of people, etc. At times, instability also erupts within the country, thus leading to difficulties in maintaining the country’s security and stability.

The advancement in drone technology as exhibited most recently in the Middle East makes it vital for India to develop its UAV capabilities and employ them in multi-faceted roles. It is equally important, to advance India’s missile defence programme. Considering the ‘missile capabilities’ of our adversaries, it becomes imperative for India to develop and modernise its ballistic missile defence to address its security concerns.

India’s relationship with the Gulf countries seems to be taking a new and more positive turn. This shift in India’s relation with the Gulf from transactional to strategic partnership is considering the multi-faceted options the region has to offer and collaborations on various issues of common interest.

The whole domain of cyber is emerging as a new form of warfare in today’s world. Usage of internet and social media has become a game changer to manipulate the perceptions of the people. Social media has been used by many non-state actors to indoctrinate and radicalise the people of Kashmir, and induct new cadres in Maoist camps. Phishing emails, calls, has become a new way of creating hazards in people’s lives. It is this “Fifth Estate” that is threatening a country’s security, both internally and externally.

Discussing beyond the border issues, China's irresponsible behaviour during the initial stages of COVID-19 had left the world unprepared and the world economies are paying the price of China's recklessness. While economically, "Great Lockdown" depression is predicted which will be severe than the Great Depression, the crisis has led to mass displacements, health and food insecurities. Keeping these in mind, it is suggestive that the world takes a note of the situation and indulges in investigations on why China did what it did! From Chinese perspective, accountability is important if it wants to rise as a world power as *with great power comes great responsibility*.

The Issue contains 10 articles and 3 book reviews pertaining to wide areas that require attention of political analysts and researchers as well as practitioners. While the topics covered are wide in variety; there is diversity in authorship as well. The Journal presents a perfect mix of authors from different fields such as: Former Army Commanders, veterans' practitioners, and academics. Such a blending will provide a holistic view of the issues highlighted in respective articles. The Journal is composite, contemporary and committed to provide researched papers on diverse subjects.

Happy reading!!

Editor-in-Chief
CLAWS Journal