

Note from the Editor

CLAWS Journal Winter 2020 is a “Special Issue” that holds significance in many ways. Contextually, it highlights the commemorative spirit of the 15 Years of Excellence of the Centre for Land Warfare Studies, and conceptually it puts forward an understanding of China in the current dynamic vis-à-vis India, from a wide range of perspectives, especially from India, United States, Bangladesh and Australia.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant/uncertainty and has been added to the already volatile global security environment, which has been a complex ‘no war, no peace’ situation. But amidst the pandemic, it is the ‘China factor’ that has taken a greater precedence in influencing the security matrix. China’s Three Warfare Strategy and Wolf Warrior Diplomacy compounded with its increasing expansionist designs against India in Eastern Ladakh are confirmatory of an aggressive and assertive China. Besides, the ramifications of the Belt and Road Initiative are exemplified by the signs of ‘debt trap, defying China’s “win-win” logic’. With COVID-19 making no difference to China’s attitude, it is indeed a red alert! In this regard, the Journal provides a much-needed understanding of the changing security dynamics amid the COVID-19 pandemic and, specifically, focuses on the China factor in India’s national security calculus—both directly and indirectly.

Highlighting the consequential effects of COVID-19 combined with the looming China factor on India’s national security concerns, both regional and global, the Winter Issue brings together 18 original contributions in the form of articles, commentaries and book reviews by various authors. The articles highlight the fact that the underlying global security concerns are accelerated and marked by ‘new challenges to the old notions of threat’. In case of India, with its rising global profile,

the situation gets compounded with growing security challenges from China and Pakistan acting as the key de-stabilisers. The ongoing Fourth Industrial Revolution and technological advances are driving changes in the character of warfare, leading to a few scholars challenging the Clausewitzian propagation of ‘unchanging nature of warfare’. What adds to it is the challenges posed by the pandemic, the rapid technological advancements, increasing risks of natural disasters and others that are constantly shaping India’s national security paradigm.

The winter issue of the CLAWS Journal will be an insightful and comprehensive read, and indeed makes significant value addition to the ongoing debates on the emerging technologies, analysis of air power, information-cum-psychological warfare, and on issues concerning China’s influence operations during the pandemic, its growing footprints in the Middle East and the Military-Civil Fusion Strategy.

In an overall assessment, the Journal with its special focus on China, discusses India’s national security from the vantage point of the China factor.

Wish you an interesting and insightful reading!

Editor-in-Chief