



EDITOR'S NOTE

Few economists in India have been attracted to defence studies even though a large quantum of resources are directed towards the defence of the country. The fact that stares every time there is a review of the defence budget is that the costs of military systems are ever on the increase. Since there always cannot be a substantial enhancement in the total outlay, there should always be a consideration on rational allocation while formulating the budget. We may well have to introduce enhancement of accountability factors combined with substantial delegation of powers. Strategists may have to lend deeper thoughts to the concepts of Budget Centres and Programme Budgeting with the overall vision towards capability building.

It may be a common rhetorical statement oft heard in strategic discussions that India's grand strategy has not been articulated enough. It can be argued that the grand strategy has not been compiled in one single document and the Arthasastra may not have the interpretive clarity for the community in general. However, the writings of India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and several others to follow have compelling influences on international affairs and foreign policy of this country. India's historical experiences have been closely associated with her strategic culture. Mahatma Gandhi's practice of non-violence and Chanakya's interpretation of realism in state relations have reasonable reflections in our nuclear strategy.

Among several challenges facing the international community, an important issue relates to nuclear programmes and policies. The global security architecture unquestionably brings up issues of nuclear proliferation

and concomitantly debates on nuclear disarmament and possible steps towards global zero. Safety of fissile material that is weapon usable and tactical nuclear weapons draws in dangers associated with nuclear terrorism and, therefore, arguably matters of serious concern.

There would be related challenges surrounding energy security which has enormous implications for an energy deficient country. Energy security issues also brings about several other challenges related to geo-strategic locations of nations, their relations with India and trade routes including sea lines of communication. National interests also demand a cooperative approach towards peace in the region. Even with an apprehensive view towards China's aggressive stance in Southeast Asia, India's posture with respect to the South China Sea becomes critical given the growing dynamics of China's relation with ASEAN countries in terms of an expanding vector towards trade and commerce. It will also be important to keep a vigilant note of changing positions of island countries as they are affected by environmental changes and the entwined dimensions of national security.

It has been heartening to note the contributions of scholars and scholar-warriors, and I will look forward to their continued enthusiasm in the field of strategic studies.

