



EDITOR'S NOTE

One of our trustees, Shri NN Vohra, Governor of Jammu and Kashmir delivered the National Security lecture at the USI on 'Civil Military Relations-Challenges and Opportunities' on 06 Dec 13. The lecture is reproduced as the lead article in this journal.

As we approach the end of another year, a number of significant events have taken place that could possibly have an impact on our strategic positioning. The assertiveness displayed by China when in April this year a platoon of PLA set up a camp at Depsang 30 kms south of Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) and 19 kms inside our territory, disturbed the status quo. This led to some 300 of our troops encamping about 300 mtrs away. It was an avoidable face off and although the event did not escalate, and the status quo was restored in three weeks, the question remained as to whether such events could recur. The Border Defence Cooperation Agreement of October 2013, apparently satisfied both India and China, but a lurking suspicion remains that the border incursions could and probably would continue to take place. It will be prudent on our part to remain vigilant and fashion our courses of action beforehand.

The assertiveness of China was again displayed when in late Nov 13, it unilaterally declared a new Air Defence Identification Zone(ADIZ) extending some 500kms into the East China Sea. An ADIZ when instituted, requires all aircraft to identify themselves and provide location information as demanded. In this case, the ADIZ overlaps the ADIZ of Japan creating avoidable confusion. No country has the right to impede the movement of aircraft over international waters and the Chinese declaration was provocative. The risk quotient in the area has been ratcheted upwards and many nations must be wondering as to what China will do next.

On our Western borders, the belligerence of Pakistan continues with frequent threats either direct or implied. The security situation demands attention. Hence it was but fitting that the Inaugural Address at the Subroto Mukherjee Seminar organized by the Centre in Nov 13 should be delivered by the Vice Chief of Air Staff and Chief of Air Staff designate on 'National Security and Aerospace Power'. The talk is reproduced in this edition of the journal. The articles on the DBO crisis and PLAAF potential are also relevant.

Nuclear issues continue on their upward disturbing trend. The threat of use of nuclear weapons including tactical nuclear weapons by Pakistan, and news of Chinese plans to double their arsenal of missiles that can target USA are indicative of the trend. Two excellent articles on 'Using Nuclear Weapons First' and 'India's Ballistic Missile Defence' are also included in this edition. Other articles included are on enlarged national security issues and some of these are written by our young and promising scholars.

Happy reading

