

Note from the Editor

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Summer 2013 edition of the *CLAWS Journal*, a theme-based issue specifically focussing on building capacities so as to enhance the combat potential of the Army for conventional and sub-conventional conflict, in harmony with the Navy and the Air Force. Given the unremitting continuity in the patterns of threats and power equations in the region, long-term defence planning becomes a fundamentally indispensable prerequisite. Defence planning guarantees cautious allocation of resources while ensuring cost-effective utilisation. It needs to be underscored that effectual direction on national security and defence policy objectives is the foundation to a nation's defence planning process wherein improved levels of synergy between defence and development plans become inevitable. India urgently needs to formulate a comprehensive national security strategy which includes internal security as well.

Given that the Government of India has approved the 15-year perspective plan for the armed forces, designated the Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) 2012-27, the *Journal* aims to identify deficits/lacunae in defence preparedness on issues affecting production and procurement of defence related equipment, financial planning and management, human resource optimisation and the likes. This edition also delves into macro level issues such as higher defence management, a debate on the need for integrated Theatre Commands, and perhaps, most significantly, the question of decision-making and the leadership conundrum. More significantly, we have endeavoured to suggest corrective actions to be taken, ultimately resulting in overall capability enhancement. The *Journal* includes indepth articles and commentaries on the subject, furthering enrichment and sharpening focus of the discourse.

Besides, non-theme articles in this edition include an assessment of North Korea's renewed nuclear brinkmanship and the changing nature of geo-strategic equations in Northeast Asia, an Indian take on China's latest defence White Paper, and a review of the internal armed conflict in India amidst the need of forging a joint civil-military approach.

The Editorial Team hopes that this issue of the *CLAWS Journal* will contribute towards the overall thinking regarding the issues elaborated above, and I await your feedback and comments.

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CLAWS Journal