

From the Editor-in-Chief's Desk



As we move into publishing our third issue of Scholar Warrior, the strategic environment in India's neighbourhood is undergoing dramatic upheavals. The situation within Pakistan continues to be of grave concern. There appears to be no let up in the political and ethnic violence engulfing the nation. Equally worrying is the economic situation within the country with some political leaders in Pakistan opining that the country is 'at the brink of an economic collapse'. In this issue we have analysed the growing Talibanisation in Pakistani society and its likely fallout.

Further West, the situation in Afghanistan does not give rise to any optimism of an early end to the conflict. While India is already actively assisting Afghanistan in the development and capacity building efforts of the country, the partnership pact inked recently between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Karzai gives an incremental fillip to the cooperation in strategic areas including trade and security between the two countries. This is a positive initiative with India agreeing to assist, as mutually determined, in the training, equipping and capacity building programmes for Afghan National Security Forces. The situation in Afghanistan and likely options available for India consequent to a draw down of US forces have been analysed in this issue.

The unfolding situation in China as also in Nepal and South East Asia has been covered along with our usual features on cyber warfare, military technology and military history. China's actions in the South China Sea continue to be a cause of concern for her neighbours as also for India as witnessed by Chinese reactions to a perfectly legitimate economic activity in the South China Sea wherein India and Vietnam have jointly agreed to cooperate in oil and gas exploration in Vietnam's exclusive economic zone. In this issue we have analysed the likely scenarios which could emerge when the next generation of leaders take over the reins of China.

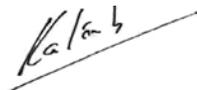
The situation in Nepal continues to be grim. The role of the Maoists in Nepal is particularly worrying as India is embattling left wing extremism in many districts of the country and there are linkages between the Maoists in Nepal with those in

India. This aspect has been analysed by an in depth article on the subject. India has to be wary and careful of the events occurring in Nepal as it would have a direct bearing on India's security concerns.

In this issue we have put together two articles on motivation. One of these has been written by a young lady, the daughter of an Army Officer. She brings out with great poignancy, the sense of loss she felt on the martyrdom of a young officer while fighting terrorists in the Kashmir Valley. The second article is a personal account by an air force officer, of a rescue mission conducted by him many decades ago. Written with great humour and not intended for printing as an article, the author nevertheless agreed, albeit with great reluctance to our request to publish the episode. Such stories need to be told because they convey the essence of comradeship and esprit de corps which are essential to achieve battlefield success. Regardless of the risk and the dangers, we, who don the uniform, do not leave our comrades behind. This is the underlying message of the episode, though the author with his typical sense of humour has tended to downplay this aspect. But it is this spirit which wins wars for our country - whether exhibited in peace time or in the battle field.

Finally, we look forward to first hand battlefield accounts from our readers. Heroic actions take place almost on a daily basis in our country and need to be recorded and disseminated to a wider audience. We look forward to your contributions.

Happy Reading.



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Scholar Warrior