

# Note from the Editor

On behalf of the editorial team, it gives me pleasure to present the Winter 2011 edition of the *CLAWS Journal*. This issue is theme-based, focussing on various facets pertaining to the transformation of the Indian Army for the full spectrum of future conflict. The *Journal* carries articles and commentaries specifically catering to the debate surrounding the transformation of the army.

As the army undertakes a journey down a new path to innovation, the key objective that needs to be set forth is that of strategic responsiveness, which ultimately shall be a critical indicator while defining the future structure of India's army. The process of the transformation of India's army has set a target where it envisions an agile, lethal, versatile and networked force, which is fully equipped to emerge victorious in the uncertain strategic landscape of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Army transformation, traditionally, is an ongoing process of innovation in military organisations, symbolising the quest for technological panaceas. To meet this end, a balanced approach combining improved technological capabilities with enhanced operational and organisational design is the need in the current context. While heavy investments in modernisation of conventional capabilities remain the focal point, the nation's engagement in sub-conventional conflict seems to have garnered greater significance. Being receptive to change is almost mandatory in today's operational environment for which design and structural adjustments within the army should be an ever-evolving and continuing process. The articles and commentaries in this issue provide a rich fare on the subject.

The *Journal* carries opinions with reference to the current trends in transformation and future projection of army aviation, special forces, firepower, infantry, the realm of space as a future force multiplier, forging India's hard power and overall transformation while preparing for future sub-conventional conflict. In addition, the need for a "whole of the government approach" has been debated along with the need for a national vision and roadmap in so far as hi-tech defence innovation is concerned. Besides, non-theme articles include a discussion on the viability of positioning Vietnam as a key pillar in India's "Look East" policy and deliberating upon China's march to geo-political ascendancy.

The editorial team hopes that this issue of the *CLAWS Journal* will contribute to the overall thinking regarding transformation of the Indian Army, and I await your feedback and comments.

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Managing Editor  
*CLAWS Journal*