

# From the Desk of the Editor

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It gives me great pleasure to bring to you the Spring 2018 issue of *Scholar Warrior*. The relentless actions by valiant soldiers under extreme weather conditions and sections of hostile population have led to systematic decimation of terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The cordon and search operations restarted in May 2017 have paid rich dividends. The firm response by own troops against Pakistani belligerence has stymied Pakistani efforts to push terrorists into J&K and, thus, the situation at the Line of Control (LoC) continues to be volatile, with casualties on both sides.

In this issue, the Strategic Issues Section focusses on wide ranging issues from strategic partnerships, understanding the enemy's thought process, and the internal dynamics of the Nagaland insurgency. The first article observes that the growing Indo-American defence cooperation has the potential to tilt the balance in India's favour and, at the same time, check growing Chinese aggression. The next article focusses on the People's Liberation Army's (PLA's) psychological warfare, overt and covert media manipulation, and legal warfare to justify its claim in initiating warfare. It is an important facet which needs to be understood by our officers and have a effective response strategy in place. The third article explores the advantages of India's growing closeness with Afghanistan. The last article in the section draws attention to the transient leadership in the Naga insurgency after the death of SS Khaplang. The China Section analyses the impact of increasing assertiveness and influence of the Chinese President on the PLA and Chinese policies. The next article brings out the adverse impact of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative and its possible fallout on the Indian neighbourhood.

The Regional Neighbourhood Section traces the India-Vietnam defence partnership and the Indian efforts to contain China's growing influence in India's neighbourhood. The Cyber Warfare Section, which explores the Chinese PLA Strategic Support Force (PLASSF) and its capabilities, will enlighten our readers. The next article discusses steps to protect our soldiers in the complex

cyber environment. Military history provides an analysis of previous battles to learn valuable lessons for the future. Lessons from the 1962 battle of Namka Chu will be of immense assistance to our readers. We highlight the valour of soldiers in our Motivation Section with the valiant action of 2 Lt Rajeev Sandhu, MVC (Posthumous) against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) insurgents during Operation Pawan.

We are looking forward to a greater contribution from our readers for our next issue. I would urge infantry battalion commanders to forward details of smaller battles along with maps/ sketches to form part of our military history section. Articles on exceptional acts of bravery will be a welcome addition for the Motivation Section.

HAPPY READING !



Col Ashwani Gupta

Editor

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