

Note from the Editor

The editorial team of the *CLAWS Journal* presents the Winter 2010 issue with immense delight. The *Journal* predominantly carries articles and commentaries based on the theme of India's military modernisation and related facets. It has been witnessed over centuries that victory in war might not necessarily have been won by the larger and more powerful army. However, the army which learns to adapt and acclimatise faster to evolving concepts and trends of new-age warfare has a greater probability to emerge victorious. Over the last decade, Asia's increasing defence expenditures have kept pace with its economic growth, with many Asian countries recording increases in military spending and undertaking robust military modernisation programmes.

Although Indian defence forces are modernising, the efforts to do so have been thwarted due to lack of adequate budgetary support and slow decision-making. This, in turn, has made the pace of modernisation rather slow. The ongoing deficiencies in the acquisition programmes of weapons and equipment are having a deleterious effect. While powerful weapons platforms are obviously necessary for military domination and deterrence, supremacy in the battles of the 21st century will hinge on sophisticated command, control and communications and surveillance systems. Based on these realities, the current issue of the *Journal* has endeavoured to address significant aspects of modernisation as the Indian Army prepares to face the conflicts and challenges of the 21st century.

The *Journal* has covered a range of issues with special reference to modernisation, including informationisation; and modernisation of the infantry, army aviation, mechanised forces and artillery. The need for synergising the army and air force has been addressed along with the emerging trends in battlefield air strikes and analysing the role of the Indian military in the realm of space. The use of surveillance in counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency has also been deliberated upon. In addition to these theme-based articles, the *Journal* also carries non-theme articles on the future prospects of the Nepalese Army, redefining the role of military power in India and a conceptual analysis of civil war.

I hope that the current issue of the *CLAWS Journal* will constructively contribute towards underscoring the existing realities as well as challenges relating to the subject. We shall welcome your feedback and response.

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CLAWS Journal