

From the Desk of the Editor- in-Chief



It is with great pleasure that we bring to you the Spring 2013 issue of the Scholar Warrior. The previous year has seen no decline in violence levels in India's periphery with parts of the region still being considered the most dangerous place on earth. The situation in Afghanistan is likely to get more volatile post the proposed withdrawal of US forces in 2014. Pakistan continues to be embroiled in a mix of sectarian, ethnic and terrorist violence. Elections due later this year could mark a new beginning for the state though most people are inclined to believe that there will be no letup in internal conflict within Pakistan, at least for the next few years. The nuclear capability of both Iran and North Korea has added a new and worrying dimension to the security situation in the region. How this issue is to be addressed will remain the defining challenge for the international community. On India's internal front however, the situation stands much improved. There has been an overall decline in violence levels in all the disturbed areas of the country. It would be important to ensure a continuance of such trends this year too.

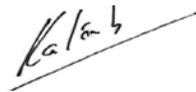
In this issue we bring to you in the strategic section an analysis of the implications of US logistic support to its forces in Afghanistan through Pakistan. On the home-front, a firsthand account of the actions of the Army in Jammu and Kashmir which has helped build bridges with the local population makes for informative reading. The text of the speech delivered by the Finance Minister, Mr P Chidambaram at the K Subrahmanyam Memorial Lecture on 'India's National Security – Challenges and Priorities' has also been included to give insights into the subject.

In the China section, Dr Monika Chansoria provides an understanding into developments following the change in Chinese political leadership and Brig Mandip Singh analyses why the Malacca Straits are not as critical to China for oil imports as commonly believed. For the Pakistan section, Ms Avantika Lal has reviewed the security situation in the country for 2012 and gives a prognosis of the shape of things to come this year. Greater focus has been paid this time to

India's regional neighbourhood with focused coverage on Bangladesh, Myanmar, Japan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

As in our previous issues we provide you informative and well researched articles on cyber warfare and military technology. In the Motivation section, we continue to cover acts of valour and courage which we hope will inspire not only our men and women in uniform but people from all walks of life. There is no dearth of such acts which take place every year in our army and we solicit such articles from our readers. Finally, in our bid to promote the reading culture within the army we have as in the previous issue reviewed three books which our officers would find stimulating. These should make an important addition to unit and formation libraries.

We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your feedback on the issues covered in this journal. Happy Reading!



Maj Gen Dhruv Katoch, SM, VSM (Retd)
Editor-in-Chief
Scholar Warrior