

From the Editor-in-Chief's Desk



It gives us great pleasure to bring out yet another CLAWS publication, our new biannual journal - 'ScholarWarrior'. Amongst the present list of CLAWS publications, the CLAWS Journal has established a niche for itself amongst defence officers and the strategic community in matters relating to national security and strategic issues. In addition, Manekshaw Papers, Issue Briefs, monographs and books published by CLAWS on subjects of contemporary military interest have been very well received. Scholar Warrior now aims to bring to the officer community a selection of articles in a convenient format to create a higher level of awareness on contemporary military and strategic issues.

The job of the soldier remains as always to defend the motherland from external aggression and internal disorder. But the circumstances under which the soldier of today has to carry out the given task have altered considerably. Technology has been one of the important constituents which have led to a change in methods of waging war. Improved means of communications allied with increase in range, accuracy and lethality of weapon systems has led to the ongoing revolution in military affairs which continues to impact on conflicts across the globe. The metamorphosis which has taken place in the conduct of war fighting over the last century has been quite striking as evinced by Operation 'Desert Storm' in 1991, Operation 'Iraqi Freedom' in 2003 and the ease with which the Taliban – Al Qaeda combine was ousted from Afghanistan in 2001 in Operation 'Enduring Freedom' post the September 11 attacks by the Al Qaeda on the United States.

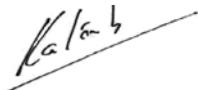
Another striking aspect of modern conflict is the all pervasive presence of the media. While the Gulf wars were beamed directly to millions of homes across the world, the Kargil conflict of 1999 was vividly beamed to Indian drawing rooms across the country highlighting once again the power of the media in shaping public opinion and in contributing to realisation of end state objectives.

The challenges we continue to face in India range across the spectrum of conflict. While the Army is currently engaged in sub conventional conflict in Jammu and Kashmir and North East India, its primary task still remains to defend our borders from conventional threats. The role of leadership in such an environment cannot be overemphasised and is the bedrock on which our Army stands. An important constituent of leadership is situational awareness, not only

of affairs military but the broader geo-strategic and geo political concerns of the nation. 'Scholar Warrior' was conceived to promote such awareness in the Army's leadership at sub unit, unit and formation level.

Today, the lines between the tactical, operational and strategic levels of war are getting blurred. A miscalculation at the tactical level may result in collateral damage which could in certain circumstances have a disproportionate strategic effect. Presently, the Army is conducting very effective counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations both in J&K and North East India. These operations are being conducted under the glare of an all pervasive and sometimes intrusive media, as also under the scrutiny of very visible and articulate human rights organisations. The army not only has an enviable record with respect to human rights but has zero tolerance to such rights being violated in any form. However, in a large organisation, where troops are operating in difficult conditions for long periods of time, some mistakes are bound to be made. The need for the leadership to be sensitive to such issues and take remedial action quickly cannot be overemphasised otherwise the gains made over years of hard work in winning the hearts and minds of the populace can be squandered in a matter of days. An understanding of the dynamics of such issues also forms an important component of leadership and man management.

As of now, the Army in most field stations is heavily committed in operations and in Peace time is heavily engaged in other duties. The overall shortage of officers in the Army further adds to constraints in time. By combining informative articles impacting on India's security concerns in one journal, 'Scholar warrior' hopes to give the necessary inputs and information to our officers in a convenient and easily accessible format which we hope will also be intellectually stimulating. We shall be focusing on strategic issues, China, Pakistan, the regional neighbourhood, cyber warfare and military technology. A section on military history has also been added along with a first person account of a small scale action which brings out valuable lessons on command at various levels. We hope this journal will prove to be useful and we look forward to feedback and comments from you to further improve its effectiveness. We wish you all 'Happy Reading'.



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