

Note from the Editor

The CLAWS Journal Summer 2023 is focused on strategic, technological, financial and diplomatic aspects of the development of military capabilities. The authors, who are acknowledged experts in their diverse fields, write on a number of subjects which educate and make us contemplate hitherto obscured or opaque areas in these subjects. They cover aspects of air and space capability development, organisational evolution, the value of intangible aspects such as military diplomacy and alliances, and strategic affairs in our neighbourhood or globally.

The past six months have been eventful. They have witnessed an acceleration of certain trends that had been underway since 2014 when Russia first took over Crimea. This exacerbated the geopolitical frictions at global, regional, and domestic levels fuelled by uncertainty and insecurity. Undoubtedly the war in Ukraine is one of the defining conflicts of this decade and a continuation of the conflict between the erstwhile USSR and the West. That conflict itself was rooted in ideology and two different political systems each of which tries to enhance its sphere of influence and the strength of its system. The evolution of modern warfare and lessons learnt from this war in various spheres of defence and strategic studies are evident because Ukraine finds mention in a number of articles in this issue. This is either directly or indirectly because willy-nilly the Ukraine war does enter any military discourse—whether in detail or in passing.

The articles help us to feel and flesh out the contours of our national security in the coming years where both for the West and India, the ever-looming foreboding threat from China cannot be brushed aside. With an unsettled border with China, there is a need to continuously visualise the context and contours of India's future wars and the new ways of warfare where variants such as non-contact warfare as a strategy to fight

multi-domain wars are continuously gaining traction. Credible military capabilities must be backed by synergy across all domains. Internal insecurity exemplified by the unrest in Manipur cannot be pushed to the background because our competitors will be quick to look for chinks in our armour.

This issue has two book reviews, the books are those which have been around for a few years, but their content merits that they are given greater reach and focus due to the importance of their subjects.

One of the articles on this issue rightly states that it is better to be forewarned of change than to confront its implications in the midst of conflict. The difficulty lies in a reasonable identification of future conflict trends and in focusing on change, within defined parameters, that should allow for an advantage in war. A number of articles attempt to point towards such advantages, but these can be concretised only with further research.

In line with this, the focus of this journal as always is to educate, refresh and trigger critical thinking on the issues covered which can lead to debate and evolution in security doctrine and warfighting concepts with the broader picture of international relations as a background. The ultimate aim is to further hone national security.

Managing Editor