



**Lt Gen Sunil Srivastava, AVSM, VSM\*\* (Retd)**  
Director CENJOWS



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

This issue of 'Synergy' has chosen "Preparedness of the Indian Armed Forces for Future Conflicts" as its theme. Military Preparedness for combat rests on the pillars of force structures, modernisation, readiness and sustainability. Decision makers need to know the extent to which the preparedness of Armed Forces can underwrite National Security Objectives. Given the size, structures, training levels and technological capabilities, what can the Armed Forces achieve? Decision makers traditionally tend to conflate preparedness with readiness, and tend to evaluate readiness in terms of military resource inputs and not potential outputs. Preparedness assessments should clearly indicate what the forces can do and not what they have, be objective and verifiable, relate to likely crises and conflict scenarios, be resource informed and facilitate trade-off decisions between resources, readiness, sustainability and force structures.

Articles in this issue of 'Synergy' cover all facets of defence preparedness comprehensively. The first two articles outline the conflict scenarios and threat manifestation in multiple domains. The next two articles sketch the contours of the National & Military Security Strategies and roles & missions to leverage complementarity and jointness. The next article appraises the non-traditional challenges. Adequacy of the evolving Higher Defence Organisations and Civil-Military Fusion is appraised next.

---

Drawing from this context, the next few articles logically appraise the preparedness gaps in the land, maritime and Air domains, suggesting prioritized pathways. An important, but neglected challenge of outcome deficits in Joint PME is also addressed. Measures to enhance preparedness in emerging domains of Cyber, EW & IW, Space and Joint C6ISR are appraised next, together with Special Operations. The next two articles highlight the salience of disruptive technologies and collaboration in Defence R&D. Deficits in infrastructure and logistics have also been appraised holistically. The issue concludes with an appraisal of long term defence planning and outlays, and proposes strategies to underwrite the desired defence outcomes.

Preparedness gaps in National intelligence also demand a critical appraisal but were excluded from the current issue with a view to not make the volume 'heavier' than it already is! Happy Reading!



**(Sunil Srivastava)**  
Lt Gen (Retd)  
Director