

CALL FOR PAPERS

SYNERGY: FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE

THEME: GOING BEYOND CONVENTIONAL CONFLICTS: NATIONS AT WAR

CONCEPT NOTE

As the character of warfare evolves in the 21st century, the concept of conflict has expanded far beyond traditional kinetic engagements. Modern conflicts are no longer confined to the clash of armies on battlefields; they are waged across a vast and intricate spectrum of domains, physical, virtual, and cognitive. In this new age of contestation, non-kinetic means have become as decisive and disruptive as conventional military power, compelling nations to adapt to a battlespace that is as fluid as it is formidable.

The emergence of hybrid and grey-zone warfare tactics has fundamentally altered the calculus of warfighting. The deliberate blurring of boundaries between peace and conflict, and the seamless integration of military, economic, informational, and psychological tools have redefined the very nature of aggression. The weaponisation of information and technology, where data can be more potent than missiles—has empowered both state and non-state actors to challenge established power structures and project influence far beyond their traditional reach.

The challenges of this new era are starkly evident. Cyber and electronic warfare have emerged as critical enablers of statecraft, with increasingly sophisticated attacks targeting critical national infrastructure, information networks, and societal foundations. Economic coercion, once the domain of great power rivalries, is now wielded through weaponised interdependence, sanctions, and the manipulation of global supply chains to achieve strategic goals without firing a shot. Simultaneously, the race to dominate space-based assets and the rapid evolution of quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and autonomous systems are transforming the battlespace into one that transcends the physical, extending seamlessly into the virtual and even cognitive realms.

Yet, the contest for dominance does not stop at borders or in the ether. Conflicts today are also waged in the hearts and minds of populations. Cognitive and information warfare, driven by sophisticated social engineering, psychological operations, deep fakes, and narrative manipulation, has become a decisive front in the struggle for influence. In this theatre of perception, the control of ideas and information can shape battlefield outcomes as much as tanks and missiles.

India's security landscape exemplifies these complex dynamics. Enduring challenges along its borders, coupled with intensifying maritime rivalries in the Indo-Pacific, demand a comprehensive, whole-of-nation approach that fuses military preparedness with technological innovation, economic resilience, and agile diplomacy. India must be ready to deter, defend, and ultimately prevail in this expanded battlespace, one that demands a mastery of both kinetic and non-kinetic dimensions.

The February 2026 issue of Synergy seeks to explore and unpack these evolving dimensions of conflict. We invite thoughtful contributions that delve into the shifting paradigms of warfare, assess the implications for India's national security, and propose innovative pathways to build resilience, forge deterrence, and secure India's strategic interests in this complex and dynamic era.

CENJOWS invites papers for the next edition of its Synergy Journal: February 2026 issue covering, though not limited to, the following areas:

- Hybrid and grey-zone warfare: Strategies and implications
- Cyber and electronic warfare in modern conflict
- Economic warfare: Supply chain disruptions, sanctions, and energy security
- Cognitive warfare: Psychological operations, social engineering, and narrative control
- Role of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and quantum computing in warfare
- Space as a contested domain: Emerging doctrines and implications for national security
- Climate change and environmental factors as security threats

- Impact of technology disruptions and dual-use technologies on military capability development
- Maritime security challenges and evolving naval strategies in the Indo-Pacific
- Multi-domain operations and integrated force structures for future conflicts
- Legal and ethical dilemmas of automated and non-kinetic warfare
- Human-machine teaming and the future of combat
- Lessons for India from recent conflicts in Europe, West Asia, and the Indo-Pacific
- Defence economics and leveraging public-private partnerships in national security
- Counter-disinformation strategies and cognitive resilience
- Policy frameworks and doctrinal adaptations for India's comprehensive national security
- Role of simulations and scenario-building in preparing for future conflicts

GUIDELINES

- Research papers of 3000–4000 words, Font Size 12, Font Style Arial, 1.5 Spacing, and **Chicago Style Referencing (in endnotes)** are mandatory for review. A short abstract of 200–250 words must be submitted with the paper.
- The paper should be more specific to one of the sub-themes above rather than being loosely related to the larger theme of the journal.
- Refer to: [Guidelines for Contributors and Write for Us](#).
- Appropriate honorarium will be paid for articles selected for publication after peer review.
- Deduction of INR 500 if repetitive AI and plagiarism check has been done by CENJOWS.
- 12 to 15 papers for the SYNERGY Issue will be printed, and other selected papers will be published on the CENJOWS website.
- MI or equivalent clearance submission is mandatory for serving officers of the Indian Armed Forces.
- Though the article submission date is **30 October 2025 latest**, earlier submission will be appreciated.

➤ Prospective contributors are requested to seek further details and submit their papers on:

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