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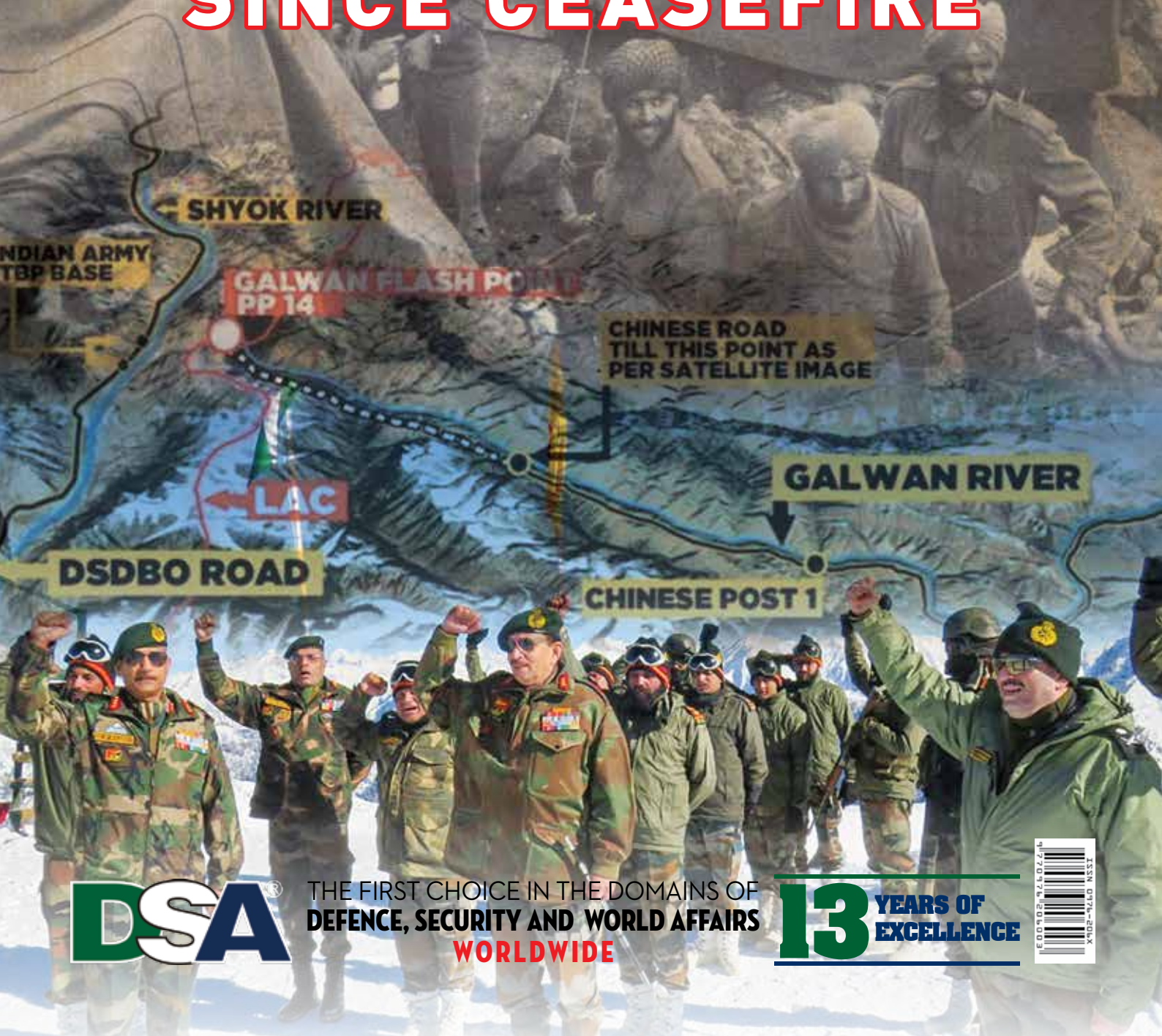
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# 1962 WAR SIXTY YEARS SINCE CEASEFIRE



**DSA**

THE FIRST CHOICE IN THE DOMAINS OF  
DEFENCE, SECURITY AND WORLD AFFAIRS  
WORLDWIDE

**13** YEARS OF  
EXCELLENCE





## MISSION

We endeavour to sound **ALERTS** and create **AWARENESS** about the myriad dimensions and manifestations of **DEFENCE** and **SECURITY** in India and around the world.



**The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...**

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya

# DSA IS AS MUCH YOURS, AS IT IS OURS!



**T**he 60th anniversary of the Chinese-initiated war of 1962 passed without much of an official murmur, or acknowledgment.

That is not surprising since it was a resounding defeat that happened in the midst of a national mood that was belligerent and supremely confident about India's abilities on the battlefield. The official rhetoric created an atmosphere that only pushed policy options toward the military, rather than a cool calculated dispassionate analysis of conditions as they prevailed, globally, regionally and at the tactical level where the two armies were face to face. It was not a level playing field at all.

Wars, especially those involving territorial disputes, happen when other policy options have run out of steam or were never employed. When such policies become influenced by the public domain, then the monopoly of the state over policy formulation is at best tenuous. Various energies come into play and the momentum of decision-making is not always rational and realistic. This is

simply what happened in the period running up to the October 1962 Sino-Indian border war. The decision to go to war was almost as if it was publicly taken; which isn't always a sensible course of action.

The defeat of 1962 has left an indelible scar on the Indian executive mindset, more than on the army. Since then, the army bested the Chinese People's Liberation Army on a couple of intrusion episodes. But all that has now been forgotten in the current scheme of things. The vast difference in economic standing has resulted in a military modernisation programme that has pushed PLA into an almost 'modern' capability. And it has also implemented new force structures and deployment postures that complement its enhanced capabilities. The disequilibrium between the two militaries is now vast, and still getting wider.

This hesitation was evident in Indian policy announcements post the tragic Galwan episode of June 2020. By denying the reality of Chinese intrusions, India certainly kept the public out of the

policy-influencing sphere, unlike in the period before 1962. Since then, information from and about the conditions along the Ladakh frontier are severely limited, so the hype for 'war' doesn't trigger another crisis. Or, so is the thinking in higher New Delhi circles. Information clampdown may have its advantages in domestic circles but the adversary knows exactly what the conditions are, leaving only the home front fooled and lost.

This is a clever policy when it comes to averting a bigger crisis or preventing a situation from snowballing into something unpredictable and uncontrollable. Controlling domestic opinion has thus far kept the steam firmly under the lid, but it is no substitute for the reality and future options. Ladakhi pastoralists may cry themselves hoarse at their continuing loss of valuable grazing grounds to Chinese intrusions. But it seems nobody is listening or cares. This is, thus, an example of the continuing impact of 1962 on policy. Unhealthy and very costly for the country in the long run. So is war.

**Manvendra Singh**

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# 1962 WAR- SIXTY YEARS SINCE CEASEFIRE



**F**or any kind of progress and development by any person, society or even the state, the best way is to keep an eye on the historical aspects of any activity and when it comes to War or any Conflict, history plays a vital role for any state. History teaches us some vibrant lessons so as to avoid any repetition of the same mistakes in future. The same is the case with India when it comes to geopolitical strategies. India has never ignored its past ever and when it is related to war, we have fought very well in all the past wars and our forces have learnt a lot from every war.

But the 1962 War was one of the most challenging wars for India and the then government in power could not do much in the war scenario and it was one of the toughest wars for India as our defence forces were not well equipped and our soldiers had no idea of China's sudden attack though they were very much alert on the borders.

Since the ceasefire, India's defence forces have learnt a lot from the 1962 War and in the past sixty years, there is a paradigm shift in the training, equipment, arms and ammunition, telecommunications, supply line and logistics which were not of that high quality during the war of 1962. The toughest task in the 1962 War was communication and the supply chain and because of these two factors, we lost a lot of our soldiers and officers in the war.

But today when I write this piece, I can say that our Indian defence forces are way ahead in their preparedness and performance and I don't mind quoting that our defence personnel's morale is highest and they have proved their mettle during the conflict with Chinese forces in Galwan Valley recently. Under the leadership of our Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi, there is a complete change in the performance of our defence forces and under his vision and the guidance of our first CDS Late General Bipin Rawat, more value was added to their performance and I am sure that with the appointment of the new CDS, all the three forces of India are absolutely prepared for any counter on our Land, Air and Sea.

There would be more challenges and threats in the near future but could not be the traditional war as our defence forces are well prepared for any strike, be it in Cyber or even in Space and are in the continuous process of upgrading their performance and preparedness and I'm sure that our defence forces will prove to be the best forces in the world.

I wish all the best and success to our men and women in Green, Blue and White committed for the national security.

Jai Hind!



**Pawan Agrawal**  
 Chief Executive Officer



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