PREFACE

Possession of nuclear weapons has become a penchant with most of the nations across the globe. Various incentives like prestige, status-symbol of great power, security motive etc., impel countries to seek nuclear weapons. Apart from five nuclear powers – Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States – other countries like India, Pakistan and Israel possess nuclear weapons and so-called ‘rogue states’ – North Korea and Iran – are reportedly trying to procure nuclear weapons. Such a rapid proliferation of nuclear weapons is matter of serious concern for the very survival of humankind. While undertaking any academic research on nuclear weapons and national security, many penetrating questions like whether the possession of nuclear weapons promote national security or not, or up to what extent and quantity should a country possess nuclear weapons and whether the nuclear weapons ensure security and stability with guarantee or not etc., do crop up.

While undertaking present research work pertaining to India’s nuclear capabilities to meet nuclear threats arising from the nuclear weapons of Pakistan and China, the present researcher, being a novice to the complexities and subtleties of nuclear weapons in theoretical and analytical terms, was faced with multiple problems. However, the vast research experience, in-depth knowledge and apt guidance of my supervisor, Dr. Sudha Singh, Department of Defence Studies, SSV Post-Graduate College, Hapur (Ghaziabad, U.P.), enabled me not
only to swift chaff off the grain but to unlock the research subtleties. Under his meticulous supervision and with his encouragement and benign cooperation, I have been able to complete this research work.

The present research work has been divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is in the form of an introduction which incorporates review of literature, research design, hypotheses, research methodology adopted in the present research study and chapterization.

The second chapter examines the question of rationale for nuclear weapons vis-à-vis national security. While reviewing nuclear proliferation incentives for the purpose of examining the adequacy or inadequacy of the existing literature to explain the proliferation propensities of protracted conflict states, it also tries to show the underdeveloped state of the proliferation literature in terms of theory-building, and to demonstrate that security motivation-- though important--needs further clarification and specification for a more comprehensive understanding of proliferation in the protracted conflict states.

The third chapter examines India’s nuclear doctrine with particular emphasis on the notion of minimum credible nuclear deterrence, the strategy of no-first-use, maintenance of survivable nuclear force and violent retaliation in the wake of a nuclear attack, maintenance of a posture of recessed deterrence in consonance with the doctrine and the command and control of nuclear weapons with the political executive head of the country.
The fourth chapter examines strategic threats to India’s security emanating from China’s nuclear weapons and missiles. While appraising China’s nuclear assets and missile systems, it is suggested that China remains a major determinant of India’s security concerns and some China’s strategic nuclear weapons are capable of destroying India. It is in the wake of this scenario that India has to develop its nuclear deterrence to face Chinese threat and ensure its security.

Threats emerging from Pakistan’s nuclear weapons and missiles to India’s security are analyzed in the fifth chapter. While conceding that Pakistan’s nuclear weapons and missile programme is exclusively India-specific, it is observed that India’s deterrent is aimed at both Pakistan and China. As a result, the scale and scope of India’s nuclear weapons effort is much larger, as manifest not only in its efforts to develop more advanced weapon designs. India’s nuclear and missile capabilities form the subject-matter of analysis of sixth chapter. India's guided missile programme, which has now assumed a self-sustaining character, has now emerged as the symbol of an independent, self-reliant, and strategically autonomous India capable enough to safeguard its national security and territorial integrity, from both Pakistan and China.

The final seventh chapter is in the form of conclusion which provides summary of the findings of each chapter. It also deals with testing of the different hypotheses in the light of the present research study. Suggestions based on the trends emerging from this study are also incorporated in it.
While completing my research work, I have been greatly benefited from the vast research experience and valuable knowledge of my other teachers who not only cooperated with me in different ways but also encouraged me. I am beholden to Dr. Ramavtar Tyagi, Reader, Department of Defence Studies, -- etc., all from SSV College, Hapur for their cooperation and encouragement.

I express my heart-felt gratitude to my parents for their constant encouragement, inspiration and diligence which have stood in good stead during my lean periods. It is because of their blessings that I have been able to complete this research work.

I avail this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the staff of the libraries of SSV College Library, Hapur U.P.), IDSA Library, NMML Library, JNU Library, ICWA Library, USI Library, IPCS Library, Library of Delhi University etc., all in Delhi.