

Cross-Border Threats to National Security

The current volume of Vidurava has taken up a momentous and pertinent issue of grave concern to Sri Lanka. Although several aspects of National Security have been presented in this number, Sri Lanka's recent experiences, as well as its vulnerability to security threats from unexpected sources needs special consideration.

It may be recalled that during the terminal phase of the country's recent war on terror, Sri Lanka was the scene of a massive onslaught of cross-border threats to security. These threats were of two basic kinds. First, the conventional type, where drug peddling and illegal smuggling of sophisticated and dangerous arms, ammunition, weapons, and various combat-related equipment were involved, in attempts to re-arm rebellious groups. The second was the non-conventional threat that originated from vindictive international groups in connivance with the blinkered so-called Human Rights strategists generating baseless, distorted and scurrilous material to provoke a global strategy for intervention in the internal affairs of our country.

All Sri Lankans are grateful that a sober but bold political leadership has been able to vanquish these inimical elements and prevent the independence, sovereignty and integrity of our small island nation from being threatened and vandalized.

The question before us now is how Science and Technology could contribute towards the prevention or mitigation of such threats to National Security. It is our contention that the biggest contribution that scientists and technologists can make to prevent or cushion such threats, is to do all within their capabilities to make our motherland self-confident, self-sufficient and self-reliant, with home-grown solutions and strategies that will ensure contentment for all our fellow countrymen.

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