

## FOR GOD COUNTRY AND

Dear Friends,

Greetings of the Season.

The fall of America from the pulpit of its dollar dominated glory seems to be the most hotly debated topic of the season. Skeptics point out how America has been living beyond its means – fostering on itself an all-consuming population that is as financially stable as the sub-prime bond it creates. Add to it the cost of playing big brother around the world – be that Iraq, the AfPak or elsewhere — the grim fact that emerges from it is the fact that the Marlboro man may not live to swipe any of his innumerable credit cards another day.

Indeed the cost of war and increasingly the cost of rebuilding shattered post war economies is staggering, to put things mildly. The emergence of BRIC with the possibility of realignment of riches too is a matter of concern and some are even venturing to build models of a post American economic world. It is exactly in this cacophony that we have slotted this issue so that readers can separate the grains from the chaff and form their own opinion.

The second lead is on infrastructure, which is another so-called happening area. It goes without saying that India's economic development tomorrow will depend on a very great extent on the quality of infrastructure that we seek to build today. It is also a fact that no amount of effort in the area will be enough and any failure will not be tolerated by history.

We have sought to do another new thing in this issue. The lead story, including the current month's cover, is illustrated with poster art – all dating back to the Second World War- posters that played a huge role in the US war effort. Painstakingly hand painted, these posters are unique in their artistic and emotional value and one is held breathless thinking about the countless artists who must have toiled for hours at an end to create them in an era where Photoshop was not even a twinkle in its creator's eyes. We know, for we have spent months to locate, copy and recreate the flavor of this period art.

All other features and regular columns are there and we hope that you enjoy going through the issue as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Please feel to write to us should you have any suggestions or ideas. We value your comments and they go a long way in letting us chart the path ahead.

With Best Regards

Suvobrata Ganguly