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Vol. 6 No. 2, Summer 2011 (April-June)

Editor's Note

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1. IMPACT OF OFFSET POLICY ON INDIA'S DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL CAPABILITY AND POLICY ISSUES

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The introduction of the offset policy in defence acquisitions has thrown up numerous challenges and signs of complexities for the foreign suppliers as well as Indian policy-making. This was introduced a couple of years ago in our defence acquisition policy and has been undergoing modifications to resolve the complexities. It is in this context that Shri **S.N. Misra**, Principal CDA (Navy), with his deep insights into the issues involved and his wide experience in defence economics in general and the aerospace industry in particular, especially in India's primary and sole aircraft industry, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), has examined the "Impact of Offset Policy on India's Defence Industrial Capability and Policy Issues."

2. ATOMS FOR PEACE: BALANCING THE PROMOTION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND NON-PROLIFERATION

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The first decade of the 21st century witnessed for the first time a serious and expansive implementation of President Eisenhower's famous speech, remembered as the "Atoms for Peace" concept that emphasised the need to develop nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. This has inevitably raised concerns about nuclear

proliferation which must be accorded due attention if the Atoms for Peace concept is to find its rightful place, provided effective non-proliferation measures are concurrently evolved without adversely affecting the development of nuclear energy in an era where hydrocarbons face their own challenges. Ms **Hina Pandey** in her article on “Atoms for Peace: Balancing the Promotion of Nuclear Energy and Non-Proliferation” examines the potential, and approach, for balancing the two apparently conflicting goals.

3. CHINESE DEFENCE FORCES:

MODERNISATION AFTER 1980

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When China announced its goal of four modernisations and placed defence modernisation at the fourth place, most of the China watchers concluded that it was according defence modernisation the lowest priority. However, there was great logic in the articulation of the four modernisations, provided one did not look at them in a hierarchical order. Group Captain **J. V. Singh** (Retd) has highlighted the robust defence modernisation that started immediately along with other areas of modernisation which can be seen as integrated parallel processes even though the major breakthrough in technological modernisation had to wait till 1993 and after, when China got access to Russian high-technology and design and development capabilities.

4. CONTOURS OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR SAFETY

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The safety and security of nuclear weapons have received serious attention from the time the atomic bombs were actually used at Hiroshima; and this has increased greatly since the possibility of Pakistan's nuclear weapons falling into the hands of *jihadi* and Islamist radicals and terrorists has gained ground in the past decade. At the same time, the issue of the safety and security of nuclear reactors and associated infrastructure, after the two major accidents in the US and USSR, had raised international concern, but serious efforts to manage it, had led to a high degree of confidence in the measures introduced

to deal with such contingencies. This has been badly shaken by the complex accident at Fukushima in Japan recently. India, China and many other countries are planning to expand nuclear energy and reactors substantively. It is in this context that **Sitakanta Mishra** has explored the possible and desirable measures to enhance the safety and security of nuclear establishments and infrastructure.

5. DOMESTIC POLITICS SURROUNDING

THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

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Nuclear programmes, especially those that have the potential and/or are planned for the development and build-up of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, are shaped inevitably by the perceptions of national security imperatives. These, in turn, are, no doubt, affected by perceptions of the external security environment in the global, regional and national security dimensions (for energy as well as military security). But domestic politics also plays a major role in shaping these perceptions and policies. Dr. **Asif Shuja** takes a close and objective look at the complex domestic politics in a competitive democratic system prevalent in Iran, especially in the attitudes toward the nuclear programme and its potential toward a weapons programme, in spite of Iran having signed the NPT and its safeguards agreement.

6. NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION IN ASIA:

THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY PATTERN

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Nuclear weapons proliferation took a great leap forward at the end of the 20th century and originated mostly from countries in Asia ranging from the Suez Canal to the Pacific Ocean. This also indicates that nuclear non-proliferation regimes have reached a plateau and new challenges would have to be designed to strengthen non-proliferation. Hence, the study of such patterns becomes essential. Ms **Yeon Jung Ji**, the South Korean research scholar, examines the nuclear weapon proliferation trends and patterns in 21st century Asia. Although she does not rule out the motives for power and prestige, she concludes that in most cases, security, or

rather insecurity, perceptions play a major role, especially in the search of deterrence against another nuclear weapon state in the region.

**7. UNDERSTANDING CHINA'S MILITARY STRATEGY:
A STUDY OF THE PLAAF**

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China's military modernisation had taken a great leap since 1993 when it acquired access to Russian technology. This modernisation has placed the greatest focus on its Air Force, next only to the strategic forces, as indeed is the dominant trend in the world. The Chinese government, especially in its White Paper on National Defence, 2004, indicated its high priority on winning wars "with command of the air" — a term no country has used since the 1920s. Recent wars also reinforce the important, almost dominant, role of air power in modern warfare. It is in this context that Ms. **Shikha Aggarwal** has focussed her study on China's military strategy as it applies to its Air Force.

8. INDEX

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With this issue, the journal completes seven years of its quarterly publications. To assist the readers, we have placed an Index covering each of the issues, from the first issue onward. Except for the current issue, the full text of all articles in the earlier issues is available in the Centre's website: www.aerospaceindia.org