

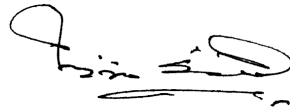


## EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue marks the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the publication of *AIR POWER* journal. We are grateful to our readers and contributors for their unstinted support over these years and are confident that we will continue to receive it in the future also. These years have been witness to many changes in aerospace power in India. Firstly, after decades of neglect, the armed forces in general and the Indian Air Force (IAF) in particular, started paying serious attention to utilisation of outer space for national defence. The Centre for Air Power Studies was in the forefront in terms of analytical studies on space, many aspects of which were written about in this journal. Incidentally, the first ever study on offsets in defence acquisitions was also done in the Centre for Air Power Studies and followed up with more detailed studies in sync with the government's procurement policies and procedures which then had to undergo nearly annual revisions.

In a broader context, we have been witness to the transformation of the IAF during these years, which promises to pick up greater momentum in the coming years and decades. At the same time, the international situation now entails ever more uncertainties and challenges than a decade ago. Pakistan is on the tipping point — or as Ahmad Rashid says in the title of his new book: “On the Brink” — of greater instability as a consequence of continuing failure by the ruling elite, civilian or military, to pay attention to its own interests and the interests of the people of Pakistan. We are witnessing the first occasion of a large number of (Hindu) Pakistanis visiting India for pilgrimage but not wanting to go back. How long would it take for large enough groups of Muslim Pakistanis, especially the Mohajirs (refugees), to follow suit, especially since most have relatives living in India? And what

will be New Delhi's options in these circumstances? I am not suggesting an exodus like that in 1971. But we need to watch events in the next two years or more when Pakistan will come under greater pressure due to its legacy strategies. The world is watching, waiting and discussing Af-Pak in 2014; but we need to reverse that order and give a lot more thought to Pak-Af in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rishi' or similar, with a stylized flourish underneath.