



EDITOR'S NOTE

With this issue we enter the third year of our publication—and the fourth year of the formal existence of the Centre. We had set out on a new, uncharted course, and as was to be expected, navigating a steady course was not without its challenges. We have indeed come a long way, in every way, from the humble beginnings we began with. And for that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the leaders, former and current, of the Indian Air Force, the defence establishment and the strategic community for their enthusiastic encouragement and moral and material support for us and our activities. It would, of course, be tempting to sit back on our satisfactions; but there are miles to go even if the woods don't look so dark now.

It is indeed gratifying to see more and more serving officers among our contributors, and academic scholars taking keen interest in hard defence issues. It is your participation in this enterprise that is so crucial to its ultimate continuing success. We need, as the saying goes, to think out of the box—or rather the cockpit, if we are to shape our aerospace power for the future. And that future, as developments across the world, as well as our own experiences of the past prove is that air power is the best defence of a nation. And you all matter tremendously in that process.

I want to specifically bring to the notice of our readers the excellent piece by David Edmonds that we have specially selected for this issue where he argues for a paradigm of an Air Power Trinity—that of theory, technology and practice, and the importance in achieving a balance among the three. It is relevant in this context to also recall the seminal study by Carl Builder (published under the title of *The Icarus Syndrome*) in the early 1990s where he had concluded that a major negative factor affecting the US Air Force had been the absence of an appropriate theory of air power in previous decades. We need to draw our lessons from them.