




## EDITOR'S NOTE

On April 29 four years ago, the Centre for Air Power Studies was formally established under the Forum for National Security Studies, an independent Trust set up to undertake research and studies in national security and defence issues. Like any **four year-old**, we can state with some degree of satisfaction that we have come a long way. But more important, we are also deeply conscious of the reality that there is an enormous distance to cover ahead of us. The fact that we are looking into the future with confidence and expectation is entirely due to the spontaneous and enthusiastic support that we have received in these formative years from the Indian Air Force (IAF) leadership, serving and retired, and the Ministry of Defence, besides the strategic community at large. We look forward to their continued support and guidance. At the Editorial office, we would like to thank our readers and contributors to the *Journal* and hope that their numbers will keep growing.

I am glad to say that we are now in a position to offer research fellowships to serving officers as well as veterans and civilian scholars (please see the notice inside regarding Fellowships for 2007-09) on themes consistent with the aims and objectives of the Centre. We have started to spread our activities across the country with generous assistance from IAF Command Headquarters. To mark the fourth anniversary, we organised an international conference in New Delhi on April 11-12, on the theme of "Energising Indian Aerospace Industry: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies for the Coming Decades" with the active support of the CII, IAF, and Society for Aerospace Studies. I am also glad to say that our website, though still under construction, is now functional. Do log in at [www.aerospaceindia.org](http://www.aerospaceindia.org) and let us have your comments. The full text of articles that appeared in earlier editions of *AIR POWER* is available on the website.



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As you know, after the Kargil War and based on report of the Task Force on Management of Defence, the Group of Ministers had concluded that the Chiefs of Staff Committee had not functioned effectively. However, General V.P. Malik in his recent book titled *Kargil War: From Surprise to Victory* has stated that the COSC worked in great synergy, including in daily meetings with the CCS (Cabinet Committee on Security), and that the CCS in its meeting on May 18, 1999, had turned down the army's request for the use of combat air power in the Kargil sector. We thought it was useful to examine the history and the functioning of the COSC system for better understanding of its role in peace and war.