



EDITOR'S NOTE

With this issue, we complete three years of publication. This is a modest achievement and we are very conscious of the fact that “there are miles to go.” But we are happy that *Air Power* has created a special niche for itself and middle level serving officers and strategic experts are coming forward to write dispassionately and objectively on serious professional issues. At the same time, we feel privileged to publish the perspectives of the top military and civil leadership of the country, making them available to our valued readers.

While air power has been around for over a century, with all its trials and tribulations, what the world is now witnessing is a revolution in military aviation, an RMA, if you like, for a variety of reasons. And this is not confined to the dominating industrial powers only. It has started to impact our region in significant ways that hold great promise which can be fully realised only if our own thinking and understanding are able to grasp the meaning and significance of the changes and broader trends as they would affect us, in technological, organisational and, above all, in operational terms.

Because air power, by its nature is technology and equipment intensive, it is but natural that most of the focus and emphasis of professional thinking leans towards this dimension of military power. Even organisations tend to be viewed in the context of how best to use technology and equipment. At the operating levels, the focus inevitably narrows down to skill levels with tactical orientation. In the process, there is an ever present risk that two crucial areas could receive less attention than they deserve: force employment, and human resources, both of which have played a more critical war-winning role throughout history than technology or equipment. With modern technology, weapons and weapon platform employment have assumed immense importance. But force employment – especially as battle spaces expand and tend to be more transparent – would continue to be the arbiter of military success and failure.