

➤ Editorial Note

History has been witness to the fact that conflicts have been an enduring truism through millenia even as connectivity, technology and science have provided accessibility and comforts that were unimaginable a few decades ago. It becomes essential therefore, for practitioners of warfare to not only study the ever changing and evolving contours of warfare but also apply them to the prevailing scenario in their respective domains. As the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues to simmer over the past two years, the world also witnessed a volatile conflict breaking out in Israel with repercussions being felt across the region along with air strikes by the United States and the United Kingdom on Houthi targets in the Red Sea. Employment of air power will remain critical and essential for nations to protect their sovereign interests in their own territories and beyond. 'Forum for National Security Studies - Blue Yonder' is an earnest effort by the Centre for Air Power Studies to stimulate critical thinking and encourage young and emerging scholar warriors, academics and students of air and space power to put their thoughts on paper. It is only through attempts to analyse, study and research on professional subjects do policy outcomes invariably get generated and take effect.

The inaugural issue of this journal covers a wide array of topics in the realm of air and space power. The article on *Air Power and Strategic Thinking* explores the nuances of strategic thought and relates them to the application of air power differentiating between indoctrination, knowledge and wisdom. With air power

becoming crucial in shaping the dynamics in the region *Potential of Indian Air Power in the Indo-Pacific* takes a view of the capabilities of the major players in the region including Japan, Australia, United States and China as compared to what Indian Air Power can bring to bear. *Air Denial: What We Know? Vs What Should We Know?* Gives a preview of air denial as discerned from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and explores its applicability to Taiwan and other regions where it could be employed, busting the myth of it being a substitute for air superiority. In *Protecting 'Space' from 'Cyber': A Case for Cyber Security in Space Systems*, the author emphasises on the urgent need to protect Space Systems from cyber attacks as a majority of critical infrastructure is supported by space assets and there is no regulatory guidance for their protection. *Role of Air Power in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations* focuses on the criticality of employing air power in such situations due to its unique attributes of flexibility and rapid response and its ability to overcome challenges of accessing remote locations swiftly. *Evolution of Indian Control and Reporting System for Future Aerospace Warfare* explores the evolution of air defence and the need for the IAF to shift to space based assets and real time transfer of data for both offensive and defensive operations. *Implementation of Flexible Use of Airspace and its Impact on Air Power* talks about the need for greater military-civil coordination, synergising efforts with immaculate planning, and training to ensure operational requirements are met with optimal utilisation of scarce airspace as the traffic density continues to increase.

Exploitation of Air Power in Russia-Ukraine Conflict and Lessons for IAF looks at the application of technology, employment of airpower and the synergy between and the land and air forces in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and its applicability in the Indian context. *Cybersecurity in Aerospace: A Military Perspective* elucidates the importance of cybersecurity in aerospace operations, the impact of data interruption and the unquestionable need

for measures to prevent cyber attacks/crimes in the aerospace domain. *Uncertainty: The Element of “Whether” in Weather* looks at the importance of weather forecasting, the effect of weather on air operations, factors regulating weather conditions and the element of uncertainty in weather forecasting. *Integration of IRNSS on IAF Fighter Aircraft* amplifies the importance and advantages of having an indigenous satellite navigation system and integrating it with the inertial system on IAF aircraft.

The inaugural edition of ‘Blue Yonder’ while covering a wide array of articles on air and space power is a nascent and fledgling step to encourage young and budding professionals in the aerospace domain to contribute to the existing discourse on the subject. I hope this journal serves as an appropriate incentive for young officers to put pen to paper and see their articles in print. Contributions and feedback from the readers of this journal are encouraged and views on how to make this better for the air and space power community can be sent by email to CAPS at editorBY@capsindia.org or capsnetdroff@gmail.com.

Happy New Year and Happy Landings

Air Vice Marshal **Anil Golani**