

CONCEPT NOTE

Air Power and India: Multi-dimensional Trends

As the Indian Air Force celebrates its 90th year of existence, air power has become relevant not just to conventional roles reposed in air forces but as an integral and indispensable part of operations for armies, navies, police forces and border security agencies. Furthermore, as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have become ever more diverse and versatile, the definition of what comprises a nation's air power and its potential for employment has changed.

Over the last three decades in particular, the importance of air power, and the utility of various platforms have been proven beyond any doubt. From the extensive use of cruise missiles in the Persian Gulf and the current war in Ukraine, to the employment of UAVs in the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict, the need for aerial supremacy was also demonstrated by the United States in the 1991 and 2003 conflicts with Iraq and the 1999 Serbian conflict.

Outside of conflict, however, the use of aerial assets has been to secure maritime and land borders as well as to support law enforcement. As UAVs are becoming more common and capable, they are increasingly proving to be cost-effective for surveillance and logistics support. These expand the gamut of air power and provide lessons, opportunities and potential warnings for India.

Keeping these issues into consideration, the *Journal of Defence Studies*, a peer-reviewed journal of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), intends to publish a special issue dealing with the subject of Air Power, in all its multi-dimensional facets. To this end, articles/commentaries/opinion pieces are being sought dealing with different aspects of air power. These articles, to be between 4,000 to 8,000 words long, and commentaries/opinion pieces of about 2,000–3,000 words can incorporate any analysis of air power, whether a historical perspective, personal reflections of a particular operation and the challenges, the strategic air power or tactical operations in previous operations or an examination of the role of technology for future operations.

Any aspect of air operations inclusive of but not limited to the air force, naval aviation, the army aviation corps or the coast guard will be considered. In addition, articles on futuristic aviation fleet maintenance and management, air support to law-enforcement operations, counter-insurgency operations and peacetime border surveillance will also be welcome. The flexibility of UAVs and their myriad roles, many of which are still emerging, will also be of great interest.