We endeavour to sound ALERTS and create AWARENESS about the myriad dimensions and manifestations of DEFENCE and SECURITY in India and around the world.

The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya
Manvendra Singh

Raksha Mantri Sh Rajnath Singh has become the first to hold that office who has flown a sortie in Light Combat Aircraft Tejas. The indigenously developed LCA Tejas holds its own importance to many people connected with the Air Force, and Indian defence industry and management generally. What it above all stands for is the ability of Indian scientists and engineers to master critical technologies so as to make a modern combat aircraft. That is a matter of pride as the country approaches its annual Air Force Day on 08 October.

That in itself is not enough though. A lot more needs to be done in terms of domestic research and development before aviation in India can be called a success and an accomplishment. In this matter, the scientists and engineers of the various agencies at work, whether Defence Research & Development Organisation, Hindustan Aeronautical Limited, or the Aeronautical Development Agency, are not alone and cannot be treated as being such. The primary users, the Air Force and the Navy, must be active participants from the first drawing on the board to the induction in service. That alone will ensure the success of aviation in India.

The current way of doing things is not obsolete and unworkable in the modern era. Service HQs cannot only be of utility in terms of formulating qualitative requirements of various capital items. They must, in fact, be the primary movers behind that the country needs. The smokescreen of committees to formulate requirements and yardsticks is simply that. A value-based assessment system is required with a long term plan as to what constitutes Indian military aviation requirements. This needs to be done in a holistic manner, by the service headquarters with appropriate specialist inputs.

Such specialists aren’t necessarily scientific or military, but could well be diplomatic, economic and even political. But they should be capable enough to look at emerging and likely national security threats and environment over the medium and long term before coming to a product requirement picture. That picture will then emerge from a well-crafted vision and encompass threat of every nature, nationality and terrain. Only then can the country go in for development and/or acquisitions of weapon systems.

All too often the country has bought equipment, first rate, but insufficient and prohibitively costly. Which then has’t helped the development of aviation in India!

The latest example, being the excellent Rafale combat aircraft, on order from France. The previous order, larger in number would also have helped in the development of LCA Tejas into an internationally acceptable platform which is not the case now. So India trudges along, even as time goes by and costs go up. By the time, Tejas Mark II enters service; it would no longer be at par with what is required in years to come.

Simultaneous development of a Fifth Generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft must continue, and that too with the involvement of Indian private entities. Which includes production as well since that is where the public sector has been found wanting in terms of quality and costs.

Manvendra Singh
Fly High: Not just like birds but like IAF. This is what every kid, teenager and the young mind in India thinks and wants to imitate after the Balakot air strike conducted by the Indian Air Force a few months back. I personally feel that after the Kargil War, it is the first time that so much has been in the media on the air strike that everyone salutes our IAF and its officers who conducted this under the guidance and vision of the senior policy and decision-makers in the Indian government.

This is probably for the first time that every common man including the young minds talks about this air strike which has added spice and has pepped up the debate on defence and security related issues.

We are celebrating the eighty-sixth anniversary of Indian Air Force this year which is a matter of great pride for every Indian. The challenges of confronting a two-front war with “hybrid” manifestations brings air power centrestage and by its Balakot strike, the IAF has proved that it is quite capable of making the best use of the aircraft at its disposal. However, the nation cannot afford the luxury of an under-strength air force. Given that acquisitions of fighter aircraft and ancillaries like AWACS and refuellers have long gestation periods, the government will have to find ways and means for purchases in flyaway condition as was done in the case of the Rafale fighters from France and heavy-lift Chinook and Apache tactical helicopters from the US.

Its anniversary celebrations will be tempered with thoughts of dealing with the combined air power of China and its regional proxy, Pakistan. Balakot proved
the truism of the men behind the machines. Our manpower is par excellence.

Along with the Anniversary of Indian Air Force, dear reader, I would like to share that your first choice Defence and Security Alert (DSA) has also completed ten successful years in the genre of defence and security journalism. This has happened only because of the blessings of all our esteemed contributors who have made DSA one of the finest magazines in India and abroad. Our contributors in India and abroad have been providing their well-researched articles to team DSA. Team DSA has, in turn, been working day and night to reproduce your articles with excellent editing and presentation with lovely graphics to make it meaningful. I must applaud the efforts of Mr Cecil Victor and Ms Vandana for editing the articles and Ms Dolly to develop eye-catching graphics and especially the cover pages of each edition every month. Coordination with all is a multi-task and not that easy which our Officer On Special Duty Ms Natasha has performed very well with her best capabilities and with all the concerned departments. Mr Amber has been an important team member to look after all the day-to-day activities in DSA and has been performing so well that every activity in DSA has been up to the mark. I cannot forget to mention Mr Sourabh who has been actively looking after the circulation and has been maintaining all the records up-to-date so that DSA reaches all the subscribers well in time.

And last but not the least, I miss all my past associates who have been with DSA for varying periods over the past ten years. They had supported the idea of this magazine and devoted their time, energies and visions to shape this so well that we have successfully published DSA continuously for ten years which means more than 120 editions. I express my gratitude to all of them.

I once again assure you, dear reader, that DSA is committed to the cause of India’s national security and at the same time we are equally concerned over global security. We will continue to maintain the same standards to be the best magazine in this genre.

DSA welcomes the New Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC.

Jai Hind!

Pawan Agrawal
WELCOME NOTE: NEW CAS

TECH-SAVVY FORCE: CISF
TEAM DSA

IAF PROFILE
AFTER BALAKOT
AIR MSHL ANIL CHOPRA
PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM (RETD)

RAFALES, APACHES, CHINOOKS:
RAISE IAF POTENCY
CMDE (RETD) RANJIT B RAI

MAJOR MUST MATCH
ECONOMIC GROWTH
VICE ADMIRAL ARUN K SINGH

WILL RELIGION OR
MONEY TRIGGER SOUR TIMES?
DR NAVNIIT GANDHI

WISHING FOR THE MOON ON
EMPTY COFFERS
BRIG RAHUL K BHONSL (RETD)

IT ALL DEPENDS ON
WHO YOU ASK
J.M. PHELPS
PHILIP B. HANEY

DEADLY CONFLUENCE OF
TECH AND TERRORISM
BALASUBRAMANIYAN VISWANATHAN

LIGHT AHEAD: TIMELINE
COL RAJINDER SINGH

MAJOR STRATEGIC AND
TRADE PARTNER
ROSS MACKAY

BOOK REVIEW BY
COL HARJEET SINGH (RETD)