



# The visionary on a mission

By Gp Capt (Retd) DC Mehta

air traffic during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 and had caught the planners and providers of airport infrastructure off-guard, since our infrastructure was not commensurate at that point of time. Moreover, it is an established fact that there is appreciable long gestation period in developing airport infrastructure. AAI accepted the challenge and embarked upon massive upgradation of infrastructure at its airports across the country, so much so, even the recent dip in traffic as an outcome of the melt down could not stop AAI from execution of its plans, on the contrary we availed the opportunity to match the demand and capacity. User friendly airports with a judicious utilisation of technology would go a long way in gaining the confidence of the travelling public.

With the phenomenal influx in air traffic in our air space the need to give due cognizance to air safety aspect, wherein, it would be mandatory for us to not only to ensure integration of ATS automation systems of Chennai and Kolkata airports with tower automation of the major airports of India but also, radar networking for efficient air traffic flow management to achieve seamless surveillance coverage of continental air space.

With respect to CNS-ATM, AAI has taken initiative and drawn up the master plan for implementation of FANS (Future Air Navigation System). This includes shift from voice communication to digital data communication, from ground based navigation to satellite based navigation, i.e. GAGAN - Indian SBAS, modern radar coverage with ADS-B, multi-lateration etc. The implementation of the CNS-ATM Master Plan will put India amongst the elite group of countries having an efficient ATM System supported by a strong and robust CNS infrastructure consisting of digital data unit, integrated ATM automation network, and SWIM (System Wide Information Management) Separation Management System.

The master plan is to be implemented in three phases. The short term will be over a period of 2-3 years and is in pipe line on date. The medium-term activities are planned to be completed during the year 2012-15 and long-term objectives will be achieved through emerging new technology based on the research and development in the industry as an ongoing process. The aim

**V**P Agrawal, a 'visionary' and 'perfectionist' is creative, full of passion, and gainfully makes use of his expertise to 'water' his business ventures so that the branches soar upwards; providing a wealth of shelter, shade and sense of well being to the work force under him. He possesses the unique virtue of positive attitude, courage to explore vibrant new ideas coupled with ability to see beyond today, and he does not see just the tree but envisions the entire forest. Thus ensuring a harvest of excellence. He can easily be categorised as an 'entrepreneur who nurtures growth, change and hope'. He tills the entrepreneurial space, preparing the ground to plant and sow the seeds of business. He nurtures and grows a healthy work environment, ensuring that the roots are solid, strong and well nourished. He has embarked on a 'mission' to bring about perceivable change in Indian airport infrastructure / aerial skyline. It may not be out of context to highlight his buzz word - perseverance, the axiom 'when things get tough the tough get going' he follows and his dream 'to create airport infrastructure in the remotest corners of India, to provide desired connectivity and also ensure that his fellow countrymen living in these far flung places reap the benefit of the development, to become a part of the growth of the country'.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) the 'main stay and face of civil aviation' is responsible for building airport infrastructure across the length and breadth of our country. AAI came into existence on 1st April, 1995 by merging the then International Airport Authority and National Airports Authority. AAI manages 115 airports, including 23 civil enclaves and in addition also, provides CNS-ATM facilities at 11 other airports. AAI is solely responsible for managing the whole Indian airspace measuring around 2.8 million nautical square miles, covering the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, the area as designated by ICAO for provisioning of air traffic services. AAI is a *mini ratna* PSU on the threshold of achieving *Nava ratna* status.

India had witnessed unprecedented growth of over 20 percent in

