PREFACE

International aviation is presently undergoing the most dramatic changes in its history. Globalisation, deregulation, liberal bilateral alliances, privatisation of airlines and airports, and economic constraints are some of the important issues the aviation industry is addressing today. Over the years, aviation industry has become more complex and highly specialised, resulting in an ever-increasing need for information on international civil aviation activities and developments. In its march towards the 21st Century, civil aviation is expected to face many challenges, which are brought about by dwindling resources, global concern over the environment, poor infrastructure, the application and implementation of the new CNS/ATM system, airport and airspace congestion, human factors in flight safety, enhancement of the ICAO standards and various legal implications of the new technologies.

The present study makes a modest attempt to analyse contemporary issues in the area of international air transport. In this endeavour, some of the major issues such as air safety and security, air cargo regulations, aviation-related environmental problems and application of space technology in air navigation have been critically examined. In addition, various international conventions which regulate the civil aviation operations have also been analysed.

The study is divided into six chapters. The first chapter gives a brief introduction on global air transport developments since the beginning of the century. The second chapter is devoted to problems related to air safety and security of international civil aviation. While doing so, an
attempt has been made to analyse the regulations of the ICAO and to examine the extent to which various agencies and states are implementing the ICAO regulations. Chapter three examines various aspects of air cargo operations and their regulation by the ICAO and the IATA. Chapter four deals with environmental problems related to civil aviation. The role of the ICAO, the IATA and various conventions on aviation-related environmental protection measures have been studied in detail. The chapter five analyses the application of space technology in air navigation systems. The main focus is on the legal issues emerging from the application of new communication-navigation-surveillance and air traffic management (CNS/ATM) in civil aviation operations. The last chapter comprises the conclusions that emerge from this study and includes suggestions.