

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

I have just read with great interest Admiral Arun Prakash's presentation on the subject "India's Maritime Strategy" published in the April-June 07 issue.

His plea for greater reliance on indigenisation has no doubt been shaped on the basis of what his predecessors have preached. Where the IN is concerned, theirs has been a success story in their interaction with DRDO. Alas neither the Army, nor the Air Force has much to be happy about! I recall attending a lecture given by then Rear Admiral Baxi to the Naval Wing at DSSC in 1991 on how he had got DRDO to synergise their activity with the Navy. As an airman, I was envious of the success they enjoyed in getting DRDO 'on board'. Hopefully, though not evident to me, a change has taken place to the satisfaction of the other two Services.

I have always had 'a thing' about the Navy, on the issues from the mundane to the professional. For sometime now, there has been some controversy about the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). I am uncertain as to why this should be the case since to my mind our energy security must be given top priority. By subscribing to the PSI does it mean that we are surrendering our sovereignty? I ask this out of ignorance and wish to be enlightened. The paramount role that it plays in safeguarding our sea lanes of communication, need no reiteration. I hope that the Navy will always sail with a fair wind.

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Yours sincerely,
KC Cariappa
Air Marshal (Retd)