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INDIAN NAVY SPECIAL

Interview with **Mateusz Morawiecki** PM of Poland



THE FIRST CHOICE IN THE DOMAINS OF DEFENCE, SECURITY AND WORLD AFFAIRS WORLDWIDE



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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





# **DSAIS AS MUCH YOURS**, AS IT IS OURS!



NS Arihant has completed its first deterrent patrol. No small achievement for India, its navy and for long-term security in the Asia-Pacific region. This is exactly where the country should aim to make an impact in terms of security and protection. It can only be achieved when India has a comprehensive naval up-gradation programme based on a national security strategy that is wide ranging and realistic. The manner in which the navy continues to be the 'least' budgeted service suggests India is far from achieving its goals, nationally or regionally — is a real pity!

Unlike its sister services, the navy is unique in having its own design bureau to develop ship-building concepts that are indigenous and modern as well. The naval design bureau has been instrumental in creating domestic ship design and building skills that have had a far reaching impact on the service, as well as on national security over the last years. The successes have been many, most very low key, but useful in the long run. What it does is to create an environment where design and development is encouraged, the most important ingredient of an indigenous programme.

INS Arihant is the product of this environment, one that meshed naval, public sector and the private industry into making an indigenous nuclear powered submarine. India is now the sixth country to have developed and commissioned a nuclear powered submarine, the most important leg of the nuclear triad. A nuclear submarine capable of launching a ballistic missile over intercontinental distances is the surest deterrent from attack, as well as providing a second strike capability should other assets have been taken out earlier. This is because a submarine is extremely difficult to track, and a nuclear one even more so.

This success should be taken as the beginning of a programme rather than a culmination, for the country needs a lot more nuclear, surface and sub-surface naval assets. The simple reason is that a nuclear reactor on operate for an extraordinarily long period without refuelling. A long deployment at sea, for a submarine or an aircraft carrier, is precisely why nuclear power is so important. India should be commissioning at least five SSBN type submarines, with another seven SSN types available of deployments. This will take care of deterrence and attack.

These objectives can be achieved if the country has a long-term vision backed by long-term budgeting. A naval ship takes many years to make, from design to sea launch; adding another period for precommissioning trials. Thus the focus on the wheel of budgeting to commissioning, it takes time and money. An investment now proves vital in the long run, so earlier the better. Any delay makes it more expensive later, and potentially catastrophic in terms of security. Something that can easily be avoided by the aid of a security vision, a design bureau, and the money to back. The navy has plenty of the first two, but needs urgent monetary support.

## Manvendra Singh





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he entire environment on the globe has changed drastically in the past few years and most changes have happened in and around the oceans and the mountains. As a matter of fact, these two elements of the entire geography are the most important for mankind right from the beginning of civilisation, thus, playing a vital role directly and indirectly. As we all know that the oceans exist because of the mountains in an irrefutable

geophysical cycle that affects mankind in every way.

Unfortunately, both these elements have been exploited to the point of disruption by mankind and all are facing the consequences with a paradox like the floods in the Sahara desert and the ghastly reality of fires in the jungles of California and heat-waves in the heart of Europe.

Global warming, much as US President Donald Trump would want to deny its existence, is taking its toll in many ways including rapid melting of glaciers in the mountains and the rise in ocean levels threatening island-nations and coastal habitats even as geopolitics, instigated upheavals leading to mass migrations, and natural disasters have contributed to an all-pervasive flux. In the midst of all, there is the long-held belief among nations with a predeliction for political expansionism that control of the ocean spaces and denial of the use of the same makes for global domination. Hence, the growth of navies with capabilities of projecting power on the surface, in the air and under water.

The Indian Navy, the sphere of influence of which extends from the chokepoints on the western Arabian Sea to the troubled waters of the Pacific Ocean, too is aspiring for "bluewater" capabilities to be able to project sea control in the Indian national interest, and sea denial to navies inimical to our world view. The pre-eminence of the Indian Navy in maritime matters is the result of the devastating attack on Mumbai by terrorists using the sea route on 26 November 2008.

While compiling these lines, we are remembering the ten-year-old Mumbai attack on Hotel Taj which happened due to the laxity in the security setup to the emerging threat from the seaward side. I would also like to share with you, dear reader, that the initiative to launch the DSA in October 2009 was triggered by all the shortcomings in our security network. Unfortunately, the situation is still the same. Though some serious efforts have been taken by the current government but they are inadequate as compared to the enormity of the threats to our national security. So, it has become very important that we remain 'Alert' on the threats from any direction, be it the seas or even the mountains.

On the occasion of the Indian Navy Day, I wish all success to every soldier in whites!

Happy reading!

Jai Hind!

Pawan Agrawal











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**INDIAN NAVY – COMBAT READINESS** TEAM DSA

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