

## Potpourri Of Fairy Tales

By Edrich Miranda

Last week it was reported by the Times of India, The Hindustan Times, The Deccan Herald, NDTV and a number of newspapers, channels, online news portals, social media platforms etc, that a sophisticated fighter Jet, of the Royal British Navy, part of a joint military exercise, in the Arabian Sea, had landed at an air base in Kerala, India, on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

It is reported the Fighter Jet developed some technical snag therefore could not land on the Aircraft Carrier; and all and sundry carried the same version, and majority of the readers, viewers believe the news with scrutinizing its authenticity.

My skepticism, with a potpourri of engineering, journalism and law, says otherwise. June being the monsoon season for western India, the Arabian Sea, is very rough; and however massive the ship may be there is bound to be pitching and rolling; besides bobbing, so in all there are three movements simultaneously, best pilots in the world, having thousands of hours flying experience, and the best training at military colleges, will never take the risk of landing on the deck of an Aircraft Carrier, Helicopter pilots also won't take the risk of landing on a stationary helipad, on a Rig or Oil Platform during rough weather, even though it is designed for vertical landing. Ships whether in a Gulf, Sea or Ocean, are like toys during rough weather. Pitching is the hull of the ship rising with the crest of each wave, rolling is the ship rocking from right to left; and submerging and bobbing up is the third movement, one needs experience it to appreciate it, merely narrating to another is beyond comprehension. Captains don't have much control over a ship, during rough weather, it is at the vagaries of the sea; so don't tell me that the fighter plane on the Royal British Navy Aircraft Carrier, was participating in a joint exercise, during monsoon? There is more to it than meets the eye, these fairy tales can be told to the naïve and callow.