

Asian Age, 1 January 2009

Navy tightens vigil around INS Viraat

Dec. 31: The Navy has stepped up vigilance around its coastal assets such as the INS Viraat aircraft carrier that is currently docked at Kochi, even as the government stated that there was no terror threat to the aircraft carrier. Aircraft carrier INS Viraat is currently undergoing refitting at Kochi. "In view of the prevalent security situation and threat perception, the armed sentries guarding naval assets have orders to ensure a zero-tolerance security protocol. The general public is, therefore, advised to exercise utmost caution whilst transiting in the vicinity of naval assets. Pleasure boats and other crafts cruising along the Ernakulam and Mattancherry channels are also advised not to close naval vessels or wharf less than 500 metres," an official stated on the alert at Kochi

Times of India, 4 January 2009

INS Viraat to turn 50, Navy plans celebration

NEW DELHI: India's solitary aircraft carrier, INS Viraat, will turn 50 this year and the Navy plans a befitting celebration to mark the warship's golden jubilee. "Yes, we intend to mark the golden jubilee of INS Viraat's naval service with celebrations planned for early part of this year," a Navy officer said on Sunday. The celebrations would take place soon after the warship, which is currently docked at the Cochin Shipyard for repairs and maintenance, gets sailing again, he said

The Hindu, 7 January 2009

India signs naval reconnaissance deal with U.S.

New Delhi: India has formalised a mega deal with the U.S. for the supply of eight long-range naval reconnaissance aircraft. Defence Ministry sources said here on Monday that the agreement was signed on January 1 and the delivery of the planes was expected to begin in phases from 2012. The signing of the deal will fill a vital gap in India's maritime domain awareness and will be followed by another deal for medium range maritime reconnaissance (MRMR) planes...

The Hindu, 13 January 2009

India-Russia naval exercise by month-end

New Delhi: Six Russian warships, including a nuclear-powered missile cruiser, will take part in a joint naval exercise with the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea by this month end. Called "INDRA," the exercise is part of the biennial India-Russian Naval exercises programme. It is aimed at boosting cooperation between the two navies in maritime law, anti-piracy operations, counter-terrorism and drug smuggling...

The Times of India, 16 January 2009

Three Indians taken hostage by Somalian pirates; Navy vows

Visakhapatnam: Confirming that three Indian sailors onboard ship M V Manyara were taken hostage by Somalian pirates, Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Friday assured action to rescue them. "We will do anything to rescue the Indian sailors taken hostage by Somali pirates off Kenyan coast," Mehta said...

The Indian Express, 17 January 2009

Will take required action for sailors' release: Navy

New Delhi: The Navy will take whatever action is required to get released Indian sailors being held hostage by pirates in a ship off the coast of Kenya, Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Friday said. "We will take whatever action is required to see that they get released," he told reporters here...

The Indian Express, 20 January 2009

Balloon-mounted radars from Israel to help Navy monitor the coastline

New Delhi: The Indian Navy is set to acquire two aerostat radars from Israel to fill vital gaps in the coastal security setup in the aftermath of the Mumbai attack. This is the first time the Navy will operate the balloon-mounted air defence radars that have a detection range of over 500 km and can track low-flying aircraft...

The Asian Age, 22 January 2009

Navy gets its 1st copter base

New Delhi: Less than two months after the Mumbai terror attacks, the Indian Navy will be commissioning its first helicopter base INS Shikra at Mumbai on Thursday. "The proximity of the air station to the Mumbai high and the Saurashtra region on the west coast, makes it the preferred site to provide effective air support for protection and security of national assets at a short notice," the Navy stated...

The Hindu, 23 January 2009

Navy chief calls for enhanced preparedness

Mumbai: The recent terror attacks in Mumbai, whose perpetrators breached Indian maritime borders to infiltrate the city, call for heightened vigilance and crisis preparedness from the Indian Navy, Admiral Sureesh Mehta, Chief of Naval Staff, said here on Thursday. He was speaking at a ceremony organised for the commissioning of a helicopter naval air station INS Shikra...

The Times of India, 24 January 2009

Navy chief hopeful of getting nuke-sub from Russia

New Delhi: Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Friday expressed confidence that his force would eventually get the Akula-II class nuclear-powered submarine from Russia on lease for a 10-year-period. This came in response to questions on reports emanating from Moscow that Russia had cancelled or "indefinitely postponed" the leasing of the new nuclear submarine 'K-152 Nerpa', on which 20 sailors and technicians died due to a toxic gas leak during sea trials on November 8...