

India: Our sub didn't stalk China ships

The Asian Age, 5 February 2009

New Delhi: Indian defence sources on Wednesday said no Indian submarine had "stalked" any Chinese Navy destroyer in the Gulf of Aden and dismissed reports in this regard published in a section of the Chinese media. According to Chinese media reports, the two Chinese destroyers — which are on anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden — were "stalked" by an Indian Navy submarine in the region which they alleged, was trying to track the "electronic signals and sonar data" of the Chinese destroyers...

Indian submarine, Chinese warships test each other in pirate waters

The Indian Express, 5 February 2009

New Delhi: An Indian Kilo class submarine and Chinese warships, on their way to the Gulf of Aden to patrol the pirate-infested waters, reportedly engaged in an hour-long game of "hide and seek" in international waters last month. Chinese media reports said its warships — two destroyers were sent last month — "forced" the Indian submarine to surface after more than an hour of manoeuvres during which anti-submarine helicopters were scrambled...

Waterworlds

The Indian Express, 6 February 2009

If the Chinese navy had reasons to embroider a recent encounter with its Indian counterpart in the Gulf of Aden, New Delhi had every reason to downplay the incident. Navies track each other as part of their routine, and the Indian navy was simply doing its job in trailing the Chinese warships once they entered the Indian Ocean from the Malacca straits and headed towards the African coast...

'Subs kept track of China ships'

The Asian Age, 8 February 2009

New Delhi: Highly-placed naval sources on Saturday reiterated that no Indian submarine had been forced to surface by any naval Chinese destroyer vessel in the Gulf of Aden but the Indian Navy is believed to have kept track of the movements of the two Chinese destroyers as the destroyer vessels made their way through the Indian Ocean towards the Gulf of Aden, sources have indicated...

India sends 2nd warship to Aden to fight pirates

The Asian Age, 9 February 2009

New Delhi: The Indian Navy has sent warship INS Tabar to the Gulf of Aden to conduct anti-piracy operations, an official source said here on Sunday. The Navy's guided missile frigate INS Beas is already in the region, patrolling the seas against pirates. "INS Tabar has sailed from Mumbai to the Gulf of Aden to conduct patrolling," a senior Navy official told IANS, requesting anonymity...

India's first nuke sub soon: Antony

The Indian Express, 12 February 2009

Bangalore: India is likely to have its first indigenous nuclear submarine up and running

shortly. Defence Minister A K Antony on Wednesday said the project was in its final stages and the launch would be announced once it is ready. Commenting on the secretive Advance Technology Vehicle (ATV) project — India's efforts to develop a nuclear powered submarine to complete its 'triad' or its ability to deliver nuclear weapons from the air, ground and sea — the minister said though there had been some bottlenecks in the project, things were improving now...

Op-Ed: Act now, put 'blue water' Navy on the fast track

The Asian Age, 17 February 2009

IT IS most welcome that in view of the myriad security threats that India faces, the Interim Budget 2009-10 has increased the allocation for defence by almost 35 per cent to Rs 141,703 crores. The total revised expenditure for 2008-09 was Rs 114,600 crores. The Plan expenditure will now be Rs 86,879 crores, up from Rs 73,600 crores last year...

India's indigenous aircraft carrier to sail by 2011: Indian Navy chief

The Times of India, 18 February 2009

New Delhi: Progressing towards self-reliance in the defence industry, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier will be in the waters by 2011, Indian Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta said Wednesday. The under-construction aircraft carrier will be ready in two years. "Our indigenous aircraft carrier is being constructed in Kochi. It has been three years since the work started. On Feb 28, what we call keel laying of the carrier will take place," Mehta told reporters here...

Navy chief warns of nuke attack from sea

The Times of India, 18 February 2009

New Delhi: Indian Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta has warned of a potential nuclear threat from the sea route. Nuclear weapons may be smuggled into India in a cargo container, said Admiral Mehta. "Today, 70-75 global cargo is containerised. It is acknowledged that the container is the most likely means for terrorist organisations to illegally transport a nuclear weapon and, hence, there is a serious concern about container security," he said while inaugurating a seminar organised by the National Maritime Foundation here...

Naval Chief sees threat through containers

The Hindu, 19 February 2009

New Delhi: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Wednesday said there was need for a comprehensive maritime security in the country as containers could be used by terrorists to illegally transport nuclear weapons...

Navy Chief: Ports unsafe

The Asian Age, 19 February 2009

New Delhi: The Indian Navy Chief, Admiral Sureesh Mehta, on Wednesday said cargo containers transported over the seas could be used to move nuclear weapons and called for the tightest security at seaports in the country and thorough screening of containers on the lines of airport security. The statement came on a day when Admiral Mehta also confirmed that the government had cleared the creation of a joint operations centre (JOC) "from (eastern) coast to (western) coast" that will bestow "comprehensive control over all maritime deployment and assets"...

Editorial Comment: Listen To Him

The Times of India, 20 February 2009

When Admiral Sureesh Mehta pointed out that terrorists may exploit weak security at Indian ports to smuggle in nuclear weapons, he was highlighting a threat that has despite being around for a number of years now unfortunately been largely ignored. It is no coincidence that the US launched the Container Security Initiative (CSI) and Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) programmes within months of 9/11...

India depends on Russia for indigenous aircraft carrier too

The Indian Express, 21 February 2009

New Delhi: With the first prototype of the naval LCA to take flight at the earliest by 2010, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier — christened the Indian Aircraft Carrier (IAC) — will only have Russian MiG 29 K fighters onboard. India may find little room for negotiations after Moscow demanded three times the original price for the Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier, as its indigenous Air Defence Ship (ADS) is now fully dependent on Russian carrier borne fighters due to delays in DRDO's naval Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project...

Expensive gift

The Indian Express, 21 February 2009

India's attempt to procure the Admiral Gorshkov may not have been technically bad from the start, but it appears to be so now, without doubt. This Kiev Class aircraft carrier was decommissioned in 1996 after a rather chequered and short history of service. Now, Moscow has told New Delhi that the deal will cost yet another \$700 million. The ship will not be delivered before 2012; and the final amount stands at \$2.9 billion, a rather heavy price for something Russia was to deliver on August 15, 2008 at a gift price of \$1 billion...