

he Indian Express, 2 April 2006

### **Navy team to US to seal deal on large amphibious warship**

he Indian Express, 2 April 2006 Navy team to US to seal deal on large amphibious warship With the US Congress debating the Indo-US nuclear deal, a top Indian military team will be in Washington mid-April to finalise New Delhi's first weapon purchase from the US since last year's defence framework—the USS Trenton amphibious warship. The naval team, headed by Assistant Chief Rear Admiral Robin Dhowan, will tie up the Letter of Offer and Acceptance for Trenton. The CCS will take it up in June. Since it's a direct government-to-government sale there will be no price negotiation, allowing for fast approval. The purchase, agreed in principle, will make India the first country apart from the US to own and operate an Austin-class landing vessel. The 35-year-old warship is currently undergoing a refit and upgrade in Norfolk, Virginia. While the Navy's pair of Magar-class landing ship tanks (LSTs) can transport and land 500 troops or 15 armoured vehicles onto a beach, the much larger Trenton can land 1,500 troops. It can also be used to land large amounts of relief in the event of a tsunami-like disaster.

he Tribune, 14 April 2006

### **Boeing bids to sell Navy P-8A maritime aircraft**

New Delhi, April 13: US aviation giant Boeing today made an offer to the Indian Navy for the purchase of eight long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine aircraft P-8A and also invited India to be its development partner. In what is the first ever direct military sales offer from the USA, Rick Buck programme manager told newsmen here that a high-level company team had made a presentation on this effect and had also submitted its proposal to develop and deliver the aircraft which is currently under development for the US Navy. He said that the proposed aircraft which is expected to undergo first tests in 2009 for the US Navy would provide India with futuristic technology and significantly improved maritime patrol and reconnaissance capability. On offer of technical partnership to Indian Navy, Mr Buck said US Navy, the prime contractor for the P-8A programme, were looking for development partners for the project.

he Hindu, 17 April 2006

### **India transfers naval ship to Maldives (Sandeep Dikshit)**

Male: Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Sunday that the transfer of Indian naval ship Tillanchang to Maldives was to ensure an atmosphere of peace, stability and tranquillity in the region so that both countries could attend to socio-economic development free from external interference. Astride some crucial sea-lanes in the Indian Ocean, Maldives is the cynosure of several countries vying for a foothold in the region. Referring to the observations of the former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, during her visit here in 1975 that India did not subscribe to the concept of big and small nations, he said New Delhi would always use its strength to promote peace and help neighbours and friendly countries. Mr. Mukherjee underlined this point during a joint press conference with Maldivian Foreign Minister at the holiday resort island of Kurumba later in the day. The transfer of ship was part of the cooperation between the two nations in the fight against terrorism, piracy and smuggling under the broad framework of United Nations conventions. Ties between the two were not uni-dimensional but encompassed economic, cultural and educational fields, he added.

hindustan Times, 20 April 2006

### **Navy War Room: Trial to be held in-camera (PTI)**

New Delhi, April 19, 2006: The proceedings in the high-profile Navy War Room leak case will now remain out of the public eye with a Delhi court ordering in-camera hearing of the sensitive case which shook the defence establishment. The proceedings may comprise detailed viewing of "sensitive documents which cannot be done publicly due to the nature and seriousness of the case," Chief Metropolitan Magistrate CMM Seema Maini said allowing CBI application. The agency had sought in-camera proceedings saying that the investigation was still in a premature stage and the public hearing of the case might hamper further probe as some more persons were likely to be arrested in the case. CBI also moved an application seeking a direction to ensure that the material or document placed by it before the court be not allowed to be accessed by anyone including the accused persons.

he Telegraph, 23 April 2006

### **Missile boat goes down in collision**

New Delhi, April 22: A missile boat of the Indian Navy sank in the Arabian Sea last night, two-and-a-half hours after colliding with a merchant vessel off the coast of Goa. The crew of 71 was rescued and evacuated to Goa. Naval headquarters sources said the missile corvette INS Prahar ran into the merchant vessel Rajiv Gandhi, a container carrier of the Shipping Corporation of India coming from the opposite direction, around 9.45. The Prahar was a much smaller ship.

he boat remained on the surface for over 120 minutes, fortunately for the crew who could ensure their SOS had been read, and sank gradually as water flooded it.

orce, Volume 3 No 8 April 2006, 27 April 2006

### **Indo-French Naval Exercise**

The eighth bilateral exercise of the generic series 'Varuna' is scheduled off India's west coast from 27 March to 7 April 2006. Five Indian Navy surface combatants, one submarine, and a number of different types of shore-based fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft will be participating in this year's exercise, which is called 'Varuna-2006'. The participating Indian units will be under the tactical command of the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF), Rear Admiral Anup Singh. His counterpart from the French Navy will be Rear Admiral Xavier Magne. The 'Varuna' series of joint exercises between the Indian and the French navies commenced in 2001 and has grown in scope and complexity over the years. These exercises have been hugely successful in facilitating mutual learning and interoperability between the two navies. The last such exercise was held in November 2005 off Djibouti (in the Gulf of Aden).

The Tribune, 28 April 2006

### **Indigenous torpedoes for Navy**

Hyderabad, April 27: Navy has placed an order with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for 25 anti-submarine torpedoes developed by National Science Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam. Only seven other countries in the world have the technology to make these torpedoes, Dr V. Bhujanga Rao, Director, NSTL, told reporters here yesterday. Hyderabad-based BDL has already made five of these lightweight torpedoes with the technology provided by NSTL, and the Navy is satisfied with their performance. Dr Rao disclosed that lightweight torpedoes will be inducted into the Navy in the next two years. NSTL, the only lab in the country working on the development of under-water weapons like torpedoes, mines, and design for hydrodynamic parameters of warship and submerged vehicles, was established in 1969 under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Dr Rao said significant progress was made in the development of heavy-weight torpedoes and the scientists at NSTL established complete capability for building them. These torpedoes, weighing 1500-2000 kg and 6-8 metre long, were likely to be deployed by 2009-2010, he said.

The Hindu, 29 April 2006

### **Naval chief: vigil to be stepped up**

Madhyamandalam: The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Arun Prakash, said on Friday that a closer watch was being kept on the Palk Strait following the escalation of violence in Sri Lanka. The Navy chief, on a visit to the Lawrence School at Lovedale here, told presspersons that influx of refugees was anticipated and a closer watch was being kept on the sea around. The fishermen were always advised to stay on the Indian side of the International Maritime Boundary. However, "they do not always listen to us." Since the latest developments had increased the risk for the fishermen it would be the endeavour of the Navy to prevent them from crossing the boundary. To a question on improving India-Pakistan relations and the possibility of joint naval exercises, he said, "it is premature to make a comment because there are many other issues involved but if we are asked to have joint exercises it will be a welcome step as we exercise with all our neighbours. But it is completely contingent on the political situation."