

Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka, 1 April 2007

Sri Lanka Navy denies firing at Indian Fishermen

Sri Lanka Navy totally denies the allegation made in certain foreign media alleging that the Sri Lanka Navy has killed four Indian fishermen on 29th of March. The naval headquarters categorically state that the fleet units of Sri Lanka Navy do not fire at fishermen and instructions have been issued to those units to adhere, into the Standing Operational Procedures when dealing with fishermen. The Indian sources now confirm that the firing was done by another fishing trawler named MAR IAH and the incident occurred well within Indian waters.

The Times of India, 1 April 2007

Myanmar navy chief in India

NEW DELHI: Continuing with the high-level military engagement with Myanmar as part of the policy to counter strategic inroads being made into that country by China and Pakistan, India is all set to welcome the Myanmar navy chief. Vice-Admiral Soe Thane, heading a seven-member delegation, will be visiting India from April 1 to April 5. He will be meeting defence minister A K Antony, Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Prakash, Army chief General J J Singh and defence secretary Shekhar Dutt.

The Hindu, 2 April 2007

India embarks on series of joint naval exercises

NEW DELHI: The Navy has embarked on a series of exercises with navies from the U.S., Japan, Russia, China, the Philippines, Vietnam and New Zealand. Senior officers made it clear that there was no intention of passing on a "message" to any country during two months of deployment in the Far East. "The deployment is part of the constructive engagement being undertaken by the Navy in concert with other instruments and mechanisms of Indian diplomacy. The intention is not to pass on any message to any country," Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Pradeep Chauhan told newsmen. This would be the most hectic Indian naval interaction with counterparts from friendly countries. The naval contingent from the Vishakhapatnam-based Eastern Command has already concluded the Singapore leg of exercises and Admiral Chauhan said this would become the standard pattern of Indian naval deployment.

The Times of India, 3 April 2007

India vows more military aid, training to Myanmar

NEW DELHI: India has promised more military aid and training to Myanmar as part of its policy to counter strategic inroads being made into that country by China and Pakistan. This came after visiting Myanmar Navy chief, Vice-Admiral Soe Thane, met defence minister A K Antony, Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta, Army chief General J J Singh and defence secretary Shekhar Dutt, among others, on Monday. As reported earlier by TOI, apart from two Islander surveillance aircraft, India is also transferring arms, including 105mm light artillery guns and T-55 tanks being phased out of Indian Army, to Myanmar.

The Hindu, 4 April 2007

CM opposes joint patrolling to prevent attacks on fishermen

CHENNAI: Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi has informed the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister that he was against any joint patrolling by the Naval forces of India and Sri Lanka to prevent attacks on Tamil Nadu fishermen. An official release on Tuesday said he had written to them that joint patrolling would only complicate the situation. He said the only way the issue could be resolved was by impressing upon the Sri Lankan Government to instruct its Navy to desist from firing on innocent fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

The Times of India, 6 April 2007

Navy's trainer aircraft crashes in Goa

PANAJI: Indian Navy's two-seater trainer aircraft 'Sea Harrier' on Thursday crashed off Goa coast, Defence officials said. The incident occurred at 8.50 am. When the aircraft was on its routine sortie, they said. "While both the pilots ejected from the aircraft before it crashed in the Arabian Sea, the defence forces could rescue only one pilot. Search is still on for the second pilot," Ministry of Defence, Public Relation Officer, Captain Abhay Lambhate said.

The Hindu, 12 April 2007

India to conduct naval exercises with China

Beijing: Less than a year after India and China signed a landmark memorandum of understanding on defence cooperation, the Indian Navy and its Chinese counterpart will conduct a series of naval exercises, starting on April 12. The exercises will take place over five days at the port of Qingdao, the headquarters of the Chinese Navy's North Sea Fleet. According to a press release issued by the Indian Embassy in Beijing, the naval exchanges "will provide a unique opportunity for understanding drills and procedures followed by the naval ships of the two countries in a cooperative environment."

The Tribune, 12 April 2007

India to have naval air base in Indian Ocean

India will soon have a full-fledged naval air base at Uchipulli, 40 km from here, to increase air surveillance and make her presence more felt in the entire Indian Ocean, Cmdre P. E. Vanhaltren said here today. The Indian Navy today conducted an exercise at the Indian Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and exhibited its firepower in high sea to combat smuggling of explosives from Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka. The Indian Navy marine commandos also carried out surprise checks on fishing boats in the area.

The Hindu, 14 April 2007

Indian Navy sets its face against joint patrolling

RAMESWARAM: The Indian Navy has virtually ruled out the possibility of conducting any joint patrolling with the Sri Lankan Navy, saying it could have unpleasant consequence on the Indian side. While maintaining that any decision on joint patrolling had to be taken at a higher level, Commodore Phillip Van Haltren, the naval officer in-charge, Tamil Nadu, said here on Wednesday that joint patrolling could have a lot of consequences. There was no need for the Indian Navy to conduct joint patrolling when it was involved in counter-insurgency operations. A number of issues were involved.

People's Daily, 21 April 2007

A "goodwill" joint naval drill?

Japan, the United States and India conducted their first ever joint naval drill off Japan's eastern coast on Monday. It is absolutely not new for Japan and the U.S. to sit down and plot conspiracies together but it is rather intriguing to get India involved. It is said that the joint naval exercise was held to carry out rescue operations in case of tsunami and other regional catastrophes, apart from consultations held among crew members on the naval vessel-related skills and techniques.