

The Indian Express, 1 April 2008

**INS Jalashwa: Navy starts training to handle gas leak**

New Delhi: Taking a lesson from the gas leak on board INS Jalashwa that claimed six lives, the Indian Navy has started a special training capsule for all officers and sailors posted on warships to handle hydrogen sulphide leaks. The special training, introduced a month after the Jalashwa disaster brought out that sailors were unfamiliar with the poisonous gas and did not have adequate standing instructions to deal with the leak, has been included in the Nuclear Biological and Chemical Disaster (NBCD) course for all personnel...

The Times of India, 2 April 2008

**Army, Navy chiefs meet Antony over 'paltry' hike**

New Delhi: With anger mounting in the ranks over the "paltry" hikes recommended by the Sixth Central Pay Commission, the armed forces on Tuesday presented a "joint memorandum" to defence minister A K Antony on their demands for a better deal. Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta and Army chief General Deepak Kapoor met Antony to present the case for a substantial increase in salaries of soldiers, better grade pay for officers and extension of the "military service pay" (MSP) beyond the rank of Brigadiers, among other things...

The Asian Age, 6 April 2008

**German warships in Kochi for drill**

Kochi: Three German naval warships, including an air defence ship, arrived here on Saturday on a four-day visit to participate in joint exercises with the Indian Navy. The German Task Force, comprising ships FGS Hamburg, FGS Koeln and FGS Berline with captain Michael Budde as the commander of the task force, berthed at the Kochi port on Saturday, a naval press release said. German ambassador Bernd Motzelburg and Rear Admiral Karl W. Bollow, Flotilla Commander, will also be at Kochi during the ship's visit, the release said...

The Hindu, 8 April 2008

**Indo-German naval exercise begins today**

Kochi: A three-day Indo-German naval exercise will begin on Tuesday, on the country's western coast. The two countries signed a defence cooperation agreement in 2006. From the German side, the exercises will see the participation of over 700 personnel from the German Task Force comprising the Federal German Ship (FGS) Hamburg, an air-defence ship; frigate FGS Koeln; and a replenishment tanker FGS Berlin. The vessels arrived in Kochi on Saturday...

The Hindu, 11 April 2008

**Navy team traverses North Pole**

New Delhi: The Navy became the first Indian team to ski to the North Pole on Wednesday night, according to information that reached the Navy headquarters here. In the process, it also became the only organisation in the world to have conquered the three poles - the conventional South and North Poles besides Mt. Everest considered by mountaineers as the third and vertical pole...

The Asian Age, 13 April 2008

**Indo-French Navy drill off Vizag in May**

New Delhi: India and France will hold joint naval exercises in the waters of the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Visakhapatnam in May. "The exercises are expected to commence in the second week of May and may last for about a week," naval official sources confirmed. The French Navy ships that will be participating in the exercise include the French Landing Platform Dock Mistral while the Indian Navy will be represented by several ships from its Eastern Fleet. The exercise will be part of the Varuna series of exercises held between the navies of the two countries...

The Hindu, 17 April 2008

**Centre admits to problems in naval deals**

New Delhi: The government admitted in Parliament on Wednesday that several naval deals, including ones with the United States and Russia for warships, were facing rough weather. While the U.S. amphibious assault ship, "USS Trenton" was purchased merely after a "visual inspection," the modernisation of the Russian aircraft carrier, "Admiral Gorshkov," has run into time and cost overruns...

The Asian Age, 17 April 2008

**Navy very short of ships, tank flops**

New Delhi: It's official now. Thirty-four years after it was launched, the Arjun Main Battle Tank (MBT) project of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has proved to be a major disaster, with the Army now telling a parliamentary committee that "the tanks have performed very poorly" in trials conducted last winter. In another revelation of serious concern to national security, the ministry of defence has told the committee that the strength of the Indian Navy is just 129 ships and submarines, despite a Defence Acquisition Council decision in 2003 that the force level should not fall below 140 ships and submarines...

The Indian Express, 18 April 2008

**Indo-UK naval exercise from next week**

New Delhi: India and the UK will hold their latest round of maritime engagements next week with a low-key joint naval exercise codenamed "Konkan 2008", starting from Goa coast. The maritime interdiction exercise, third in a series that started in 2004, will feature frontline warships of the Royal Navy, including the Illustrious Aircraft Carrier and the HMS Trafalgar nuclear submarine...

The Hindu, 19 April 2008

**U.S., French ships too in naval war games**

New Delhi: Warships from the U.S. and France will participate in the annual bilateral India-U.K. naval exercises on the western seaboard near Goa, the British High Commission said here in a statement. This is the third edition of the "Konkan" series of India-U.K. exercises. It is scheduled from April 21 to May 2...

The Times of India, 20 April 2008

### **Indo-UK naval war games off Goa coast from Monday**

New Delhi: India and UK will kick off their third round of the annual 'Konkan' naval wargames on the western seaboard off Goa from Monday, with the British aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious occupying the pride of place in the combat manoeuvres. The main thrust areas of the exercise, to be held from April 21 to May 2, will include "combined maritime operations", VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure) procedures and anti-submarine warfare...