

Times of India, 1 August 2007

Indian warships ready to head to West Asia

NEW DELHI: Much more than Army and IAF, the much smaller Navy is keeping the Tricolour flying high on foreign shores in tune with India's growing geo-political and strategic interests. After an ambitious overseas deployment in South-East Asia and the Far East in March-May, Indian warships will now head for West Asia in August-September to "engage constructively" with as many as six countries.

The Hindu, 1 August 2007

India downplays significance of naval exercises

NEW DELHI: India is downplaying the significance of the biggest-ever multinational naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal, saying that it is merely an enlargement of the war games regularly held with the U.S. Navy. It also sought to distance itself from the notion that an alternative regional security grouping is being firmed up with these exercises.

The Hindu, 3 August 2007

India's offer on maritime security

MANILA: India on Thursday unveiled a maritime security package for the benefit of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The ARF comprises the United States, China, Russia, Japan, India and the European Union, besides the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It also has among other countries Australia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. At the 14th annual meeting of the ARF here, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said: India will design and conduct a training module on maritime security, specifically for the ARF member-states, with themes of anti-piracy, search-and-rescue [missions], offshore and port security, anti-smuggling and narcotics control and anti-poaching operations.

The Statesman, 3 August 2007

Gorshkov delivery to be delayed

Moscow, Aug. 2: The delivery of refurbished Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov to the Indian Navy as part of a \$1.5 billion deal would be delayed by at least three years with escalating costs being blamed as the primary factor. The chief of Severodvinsk-based Sevmash shipyard upgrading Gorshkov has been dismissed or, as some sources say, has resigned due to slippage in schedule. The delivery could take place not in 2008 as planned but in 2011, financial daily Vedomosti reported today.

Reuters, 3 August 2007

Russia delays India aircraft carrier by 3 yrs - Ifax

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's main military shipyard is at least three years behind schedule on a \$1.5 billion contract to modernise an aircraft carrier sold to India in 2004, Interfax news agency reported on Wednesday. Under the contract, Sevmash shipyard in the Arctic port of Severomorsk was due by 2008 to upgrade and re-equip the ship built in 1987 to combine the power of a missile cruiser and capabilities of an aircraft carrier.

The Hindu, 7 August 2007

Israeli Navy Chief on maiden visit

NEW DELHI: Signalling an impetus to defence ties with Israel, the Commander-in-Chief of Israeli Navy, Vice-Admiral David Ben Bashat, is on a maiden visit to India. On Tuesday, Vice-Admiral Bashat will be briefed at the Indian Navy's Maritime Operations Centre and he will also present his views on the maritime scenario in the region. He will call on Defence Secretary Vijay Singh and meet the three Service chiefs. He is expected to visit the Mumbai-based Western Command.

Times of India, 8 August 2007

India, Israel to step up naval ties

NEW DELHI: As part of their expanding defence relationship, India and Israel on Tuesday decided to further step up cooperation in the naval arena. They also agreed to give a greater thrust to ongoing projects like upgradation of Indian naval Sea Harrier jump-jets and the joint development of advanced 'Barak' anti-missile defence systems.

Kashmir Watch, 9 August 2007

India Seeks Israeli Help To Fill Unmanned Combat Helicopter Need

NEW DELHI, August 7: The Indian Navy is exploring collaboration between local and Israeli defense companies to develop unmanned combat helicopters, according to Defence Ministry sources here. Adm. Sureesh Mehta, chief of the Indian Navy, and Vice Adm. David Ben Bashat discussed the possible joint development and other defense programs Aug. 7 during Bashat's visit here, the first official visit to India by an Israel Navy chief. The Indian Navy has projected a requirement for 30 to 50 unmanned combat helicopters.

Daily Times, 10 August 2007

Pakistan, India to free fishermen, boats

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan have decided to release boats along with arrested fishermen who had inadvertently transgressed into the other country's waters, and said on Thursday they would tally the number of seized boats in their custody for simultaneous exchange. The issue of releasing seized boats, which in the past were not released while repatriating fishermen, figured in the first day of the two-day maritime talks between the Indian Coast Guard and its counterpart Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (MSA).

Times of India, 10 August 2007

After Gorshkov, another Navy project hit by delay

NEW DELHI: The bad news for Navy shows no sign of stopping. The country's most ambitious ship-building project, construction of a 37,500-tonne indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) at Cochin shipyard, is running way behind schedule. Sources said current projections show IAC will be ready for delivery to Navy earliest by 2015, after completion of construction and trials, instead of the earlier date of 2011-2012. The IAC project, cleared by the government in January 2003 at a cost of Rs 3,261 crore after several years of dilly-dallying, is lagging behind on "almost all fronts".

Indian Express, 14 August 2007

Russia will deliver Gorshkov on time

Moscow, August 13: Indian ambassador to Moscow, Kanwal Sibal said here today heavy

aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov, being modernised at Shevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk for Indian Navy, will be completed on schedule. We have a monitoring team in Shevmash. We are aware of the position on the ground, Sibal said at a press conference, referring to the press reports that Russia will not complete the project on schedule because of lack of money and mismanagement.

Times of India, 14 August 2007

India, Israel mull development of unmanned combat helicopters

JERUSALEM: India has proposed a collaboration with Israel in developing unmanned combat helicopters for the countries' navies, a media report here said. The proposal was put forward by Vice Admiral Sureesh Mehta during talks with Israel's Navy commander Maj Gen Dan Bashat in New Delhi last week, investigative publication 'DEBKAFfile' reported. Mehta estimated that the Indian Navy would need 40-50 helicopters of this kind, the report said, adding the project would be a revolutionary step for the navies of both countries providing them with their first "independent air arms."

Times of India, 14 August 2007

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Indian Express, 14 August 2007

New world, if only China could sea

The Indian Navy and the US Navy are to hold their regular periodic Malabar exercise in the Bay of Bengal in September. Some 20 ships, mostly from the Indian and US navies, will take part. Vessels from Japan, Australia and Singapore are also expected to participate in this five-day exercise. This has drawn a lot of attention, especially from China and its admirers in India. They consider this a follow-up of the quadrilateral ministerial meeting held in May in Manila on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum among the foreign ministers of the US, India, Japan and Australia. Prior to this meeting, there was a demarche from Beijing expressing concern. India and Australia gave reassurances that the quadrilateral did not have any anti-Chinese connotation, and that it wasnt directed against any country.

Asia Times, 14 August 2007

India promotes 'goodwill' naval exercises

BANGALORE - A month from now, the Bay of Bengal will come alive to one of the biggest naval exercises to be held in these waters when the navies of India, the United States, Australia, Singapore and Japan conduct a five-day joint exercise. The event is sure to create more than mere ripples in the region. Code-named "Malabar 07", the multi-nation naval exercise that will take place from September 4-9 will see the participation of

two destroyers from Japan, a frigate from Singapore, and a frigate and a tanker from Australia. However, it will be the US and Indian navies that will hold center stage.

The Hindu, 14 August 2007

Air Force commanders' meet from Aug. 16

Thiruvananthapuram, Aug. 13 (PTI): A three-day conclave of Air Force Commanders would be held at the Southern Air Command (SAC) here from August 16 to deliberate on strategic and security issues. The conclave, being held here for the first time, would be attended by IAF chief Air Marshal F H Major and Commanders-in-Chief of seven Air Force Commands and Principal Staff Officers, an official release said here today.

The Hindu, 14 August 2007

Pakistan allows IAF duo to land in Karachi

NEW DELHI: In a rare show of camaraderie, Pakistan has allowed an Indian Air Force duo to land in Karachi in order to help them better the world record for round-the-world navigation in a microlight aircraft. Currently in Rome and behind schedule by a big margin, Rahul Monga and Anil Kumar must hit Jamnagar in Gujarat by next Monday to erase the earlier record books of 99 days to circumnavigate the world in a single engine aircraft. With time running out, Pakistan was requested for assistance and it agreed to allow the aircraft to land at Karachi and then quickly make the journey to Jamnagar. From there, with IAF help at hand, they will be able to quickly make their way to their starting point here and be in time to beat the six-year record.

The Hindu, 17 August 2007

Advanced exercise mines given to Navy

VISAKHAPATNAM: The Defence Research and Development Organisation's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) here on Thursday handed over two Advanced Exercise Mines (AEMs) to the Indian Navy marking an important day in the laboratory's history. Distinguished Scientist and Chief Controller (R and D) of DRDO A. Sivathanu Pillai handed over the service records of the AEMs to Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command Raman P. Suthan at a function in NSTL. NSTL completed the Rs.7.85 crores indigenous project well ahead of the December 31 deadline at a cost of only one-fifth or one-sixth of the cost of imported technology.

Indian Express, 21 August 2007

N-deal protests won't hit Indo-US war games

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20: In spite of the Left ultimatum over the nuclear deal and a protest threat, the UPA Government is going ahead with the multinational naval exercises involving two US Navy aircraft carriers and one nuclear submarine in the Bay of Bengal next month

Asia Times, 23 August 2007

India's blue water dreams may have to wait

BANGALORE - Even as the Indian Navy is making its mark projecting power in waters far beyond its shores, its ambitions seem likely to be impeded by delays in a string of big-

ticket projects involving new acquisitions. Besides the delay in the delivery of a refurbished Russian aircraft carrier, the construction in India of an indigenous carrier has been hit by rough weather.

People's Daily, 23 August 2007

India to host multi-nation naval drill in September

The U.S., Singaporean, Australian, Japanese and Indian warships are set to take part in a naval exercise that India hosts in the Bay of Bengal in September, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Thursday. "It (the naval exercise plan) is on," the PTI quoted India's navy chief admiral Sureesh Mehta as saying of the event slated for Sept. 4. Warships slated to participate in the Bay of Bengal exercise include U.S. nuclear carrier and nuclear powered submarines. "Indian Navy stands to benefit a lot from exercises that we do with various navies, including the U.S. navy, " said Mehta.

NDTV News, 23 August 2007

Naval exercise as per schedule: Navy Chief

Indian Navy chief Sureesh Mehta said the planned five-nation Malabar naval exercises in the Bay of Bengal will be held as per schedule. The Left parties have decided to stage protests in major eastern coastal towns against the scheduled exercises. "It (Malabar Exercise) is on," Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta said of the exercise slated for September 4. Twenty four warships from India, the US, Singapore, Australia and Japan are taking part in the naval exercise. The warships include US nuclear carrier and nuclear powered submarine. Mehta said Armed forces are completely apolitical and work in national interests.

Daily Excelsior, 24 August 2007

Navy exercise sparks over new society grouping By Pallab Bhattacharya

The decision of the Navies of India, the United States, Australia, Japan and Singapore to hold the biggest-ever exercise in Bay of Bengal in September has sparked speculation in certain quarters about the possibility of emergence of a new security grouping in the developing power game in Asia.

Economic Times, 24 August 2007

It's code red, but naval war games to go ahead

NEW DELHI: Never mind the four-day long agitation by the Left parties against the naval war games, the Centre has no plans to call off the exercise. Naval chief Admiral Suresh Mehta on Thursday told reporters that the Malabar exercise is on. Twenty-four naval ships from India, US, Australia, Japan and Singapore are taking part in the naval exercises scheduled for September 4. The warships that would participate in the exercise include the American nuclear carrier USS Nimitz and nuclear powered submarine Chicago.

The Telegraph, 31 August 2007

Battle for the High Seas

Although a maritime nation on the map, India had lacked a naval tradition for ages. Indian states confined themselves to mostly land skirmishes throughout history till the

Europeans arrived by sea. It was the British who built a united army, as well as a modern navy, for the country. However, credit must be given to Indira Gandhi for a navy that is respected for its operational preparedness and professionalism today. Against this backdrop, the Indian government's decision to hold joint naval exercises with friendly navies deserves praise.

The Hindu, 31 August 2007

Indian naval ships dock at Abu Dhabi port

Dubai, Aug 30 (PTI): Two Indian Naval warships, on a rare Gulf tour aimed at fostering maritime goodwill with the Arab nations, docked at a port in United Arab Emirates. 'INS Rajput' and 'INS Betwa' docked at the Mina Zayed port in Abu Dhabi on Monday in the presence of the newly appointed Indian Ambassador to the UAE Talmiz Ahmad. "I am very delighted with the visit of the two Indian naval ships. They are part of historic maritime linkages that we have with the Gulf for centuries. We want to exchange ideas with the personnel of the UAE Navy about the development, technology, its strategy and tactics," Ahmad said.

Economic Times, 31 August 2007

Govt keen on naval exercise; Left ready to fight

NEW DELHI: Even as the differences between the UPA and the Left over the Indo-US nuclear deal continue to simmer, the government has informed Parliament that the joint naval exercise by India, Japan, Australia, Singapore and the US, in the Bay of Bengal from September 4-9 is in consonance with India's foreign policy. The CPM polit bureau had described the move as being harmful to India's strategic interests and the Left has announced two 'jathas' (processions) against the naval war games from September 4-8, coinciding with the exercise.