

The Tribune, 3 December 2005

Navy to acquire 27 warships

New Delhi, December 2: The Indian Navy has decided to acquire three more Russian Krivck class missile-carrying stealth frigates in a bid to bolster its falling force levels and is in the process of floating proposals for purchasing more spy planes and anti-submarine helicopters. Addressing a news conference ahead of the Navy Day on December 4 Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash said 27 warships and submarines were on order. He further disclosed that the government clearance was also in process for inducting 36 more indigenous warships of various tonnage ranging from fast petrol craft to missile-carrying destroyers and frigates which would greatly enhance Indian Navy's capabilities. He said Navy had completed the selection of buying a Deep Sea Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) for undertaking rescue of submarines in distress by identifying the vendor. Navy was in the process of buying at least two of these DSRV's.

The Telegraph, 3 December 2005

Navy widens ocean ring (Sujan Dutta)

New Delhi, Dec. 2: The navy has forged 'working alliances' with 13 nations in the Indian Ocean region to replenish ships and use port facilities, the chief of naval staff, Admiral Arun Prakash, said today. These arrangements are part of a diplomatic strategy that the navy has taken up with the foreign ministry. The navy is also restructuring its organization to take up diplomatic initiatives. Admiral Prakash, giving a brief on the activities of the force on Navy Day, said exchanges with the region were being intensified with naval headquarters having created a new office of 'foreign cooperation, strategic concepts and transformation'. An assistant chief of naval staff post of the rank of a two-star officer has been created.

The Indian Express, 5 December 2005

Indian Navy aircraft crash-lands (PTI)

Panaji, December 5: An Indian Navy 'Sea Harrier' aircraft on Monday crash-landed at Dabolim airport, 40 kms from Panaji, naval sources said. The aircraft went awry on the runway and caught fire, Navy pro C D R N Kesri said adding that further details were awaited.

The Indian Express, 6 December 2005

Sea Harrier crashes in Goa, pilot dies

PanajiNew Delhi, Dec 5: A naval Sea Harrier fighter aircraft crashed this morning at Goa's Dabolim airport killing its pilot Lt Commander H S Pannu. The aircraft on a full-thrust take-off roll veered off the runway and smashed into a compound wall before bursting into flames. The pilot lost directional control when the engine was on full reheat mode, crashing into a wall and landing in a field very close to a railway line in thickly populated Bogmalo area. Air traffic was closed at Dabolim airport till 2.30 this afternoon. A five-member special committee, including engineers who specialise in the workings of the Sea Harriers at INS Hansa, the country's premier Naval aviation base, has been sent to investigate the crash. Over 10 Harriers have crashed since they were purchased in 1984.

The Telegraph, 12 December 2005

Navy team to bring alive US military sales (Sujan Dutta)

New Delhi, Dec. 11: A US offer to transfer P-3C Orion long-range maritime surveillance aircraft to the Indian Navy is expected to reboot American military hardware sales to India shortly. Despite a dramatic increase in military-to-military ties, the only major military hardware procured from the US in the last four years are the first of 12 AN/TPQ 37 Firefinder weapon locating radars to the Indian Army. The P-3C Orions being negotiated have been phased out by the US military and kept in "reserve". The Indian Navy has projected the need for the long-range aircraft to fill the gap in its maritime spying ability caused by the loss of two IL-38 Soviet-origin aircraft to a mid-air collision in 2003. The navy first evinced interest in the P-3C Orion aircraft in the late 1990s but the talks did not get off the ground because of sanctions after the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests. A US Navy team is likely to make a formal

offer to the Indian Navy which has enquired about the possibility of leasing two P-3C Orions with an option of acquiring eight more.

The Hindu, 16 December 2005

BrahMos missiles being inducted into Navy

Bangalore: India's supersonic cruise missile BrahMos is being inducted into the Navy after a fresh evaluation, A. Sivathanu Pillai, Chief Controller of Research and Development, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), said here on Thursday. During the third international conference on Intelligent Sensing and Information Processing, Dr. Pillai told presspersons that trials of another version of the missile, with a 290-km range and made with "smart material," was undergoing trials with the Army. Yet another version is likely to be integrated with the Sukhoi aircraft of the Indian Air Force by 2007. "There is no similar supersonic missile in the world today. However, there are no plans to sell it to other countries. We are not in the world arms market," he said. BrahMos is the result of collaborative research with Russia, the only country with which India is cooperating in defence-related research. The land-to-land and ship-to-ship missiles are believed to be world leaders, with greater accuracy than those with other armies.

The Hindu, 17 December 2005

India, Bangladesh plan naval exercises

New Delhi: India will extend its naval diplomacy to Bangladesh with a joint naval exercise towards the end of this month that will coincide with Chief of Naval Staff Arun Prakash's visit to the nation and Myanmar. The visit will give India the opportunity to display its shipbuilding abilities as one of the two warships visiting Chittagong and Yangon ports has been indigenously built. Indian naval ships routinely visit neighbouring countries and a few nations even use the services of Indian armed forces personnel in operating military ships and aircraft. During the tsunami last year, naval ships provided humanitarian assistance to the neighbours. As a measure of faith in the Indian Navy, two island countries have asked it to provide them with details about their maritime zones. But there was little military contact with Bangladesh.

The Indian Express, 23 December 2005

Navy to boost maritime ties with Dhaka (Shiv Aroor)

New Delhi, December 22: Naval Headquarters is preparing a detailed report for the Foreign Ministry on Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash's visit to Dhaka earlier this week. In it the core recommendation will be to formalise military maritime channels in the Bay of Bengal connecting the two countries and to re-start maritime relations after nine years of stagnation. As a beginning, the navies of the two countries have discussed the possibility of initially connecting Vishakapatnam and Chittagong. An access agreement with Dhaka, to be part of the Navy's recommendations to the MEA, would allow for more extensive patrolling, both seaborne and from the air, in this sensitive stretch of sea. It will also be recommended that New Delhi offer to maintain some of Bangladesh's ports to compete with Beijing's strategic gains. China signed a training and equipment agreement with Dhaka earlier this year. Based on the MEA's response, follow-up discussions will be firmed up with Dhaka. Convinced that the ISI has a vice-like grip on all security decisions in Bangladesh, the Navy chief's visit was ostensibly to alter the atmospherics and gauge Dhaka's willingness to rejuvenate relations with New Delhi. The last visit of a Navy chief was by Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat in 1996.

Hindustan Times, 27 December 2005

India to host multi-nation naval exercise (PTI)

New Delhi, December 26, 2005: In a move aimed at boosting defence cooperation with its eastern neighbours, India is hosting a multi-nation naval exercise off the Andaman coast from January 9. Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand have confirmed participation in the almost week-long multi-nation exercises Milan-06, a naval spokesman said in New Delhi. He said some other south-east Asian nations like Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and

neighboring Sri Lanka would also participate in the exercises in which the focus would be on disaster relief, EEZ patrols and interdiction at sea.

The Tribune, 29 December 2005

'Dhanush' test-fired (UNI)

Balasore, December 28: India today successfully test fired 'Dhanush', the naval version of the indigenous 'Prithvi' medium-range surface to surface missile, from a ship anchored in the Bay of Bengal between Paradip and Chandipur, off the Orissa coast. Sources, at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) on Chandipur-on-Sea, said the missile was test fired at 1.58 pm.