

Indian Express, 7 December 2006

On Navy Day, history comes sailing into Porbandar harbour

Porbandar, December 7: MEMORIES of the 35-year-old Indian Navy's decisive victory on Karachi harbour were revived at Porbandar, when the Indian Naval Ship (INS) 'Nashak' visited Gujarat coast in its new avatar on Thursday. It was Nashak which destroyed Karachi harbour on December 4, 1971. Since then, this day is observed as Navy Day every year. Missile Corvette Nashak along with INS Trishul and Vidhyagiri were at the Western Naval Command's forward operational base at Porbandar on Thursday as part of Indian Navy's week-long celebration of Navy Day. The three warships sailed on the Arabian Sea and demonstrated various operations of the Indian Navy.

The Times of India, 8 December 2006

Navy to track terror threats in Gujarat

Porbandar, December 7: The Navy is setting up a hi-tech surveillance centre to monitor possible terror threats to economic installations in the state. The Navy and Coast Guard will jointly monitor the innumerable small uninhabited islands off Gujarat coast to prevent terrorists from using them as base to launch terror activities on Indian shores.

The Times of India, 11 December 2006

Made-in-India Scorpene to debut soon

NEW DELHI: India's gigantic Rs 18,798-crore project to construct six French Scorpene submarines at Mazgaon Docks Ltd (MDL) in Mumbai will finally kick off this week after over a year of preparatory work. The "steel-cutting" for the Scorpene project at MDL is likely to take place on December 15, with defence minister A K Antony presiding over the ceremony. "Over the last one year, the MDL infrastructure has been upgraded to handle the submarine construction, along with proper training of personnel. Now, the work will actually begin on fabricating the submarine hull. The six submarines will be delivered, one per year, between 2012 and 2017," said a senior official.

Stratfor, 12 December 2006

India: Submarine Construction To Begin

Production of six Scorpene diesel attack submarines will begin Dec. 14 in Mumbai's Mazagaon Dock naval shipyard under French and Spanish supervision, Indian navy Vice Adm. SKK Krishnan said, Asia Pacific News reported Dec. 12. The six subs will be built as part of a 12-year, \$3.17 billion deal with Armaris, a subsidiary of France's Thales group and Direction des Constructions Navales. The deal will add to India's current total of 16 outdated German and Russian submarines, and also includes the sale of 36 Exocet-type anti-submarine and anti-ship missiles.

The Times of India, 17 December 2006

Sacked Navy captain questions CBI probe

NEW DELHI: Sacked Navy Captain Kashyap Kumar, against whom the CBI is yet to find evidence linking him to the war room leak, has questioned the probe conducted against him by the force and challenged the decision to dismiss him without a court martial. In a point-by-point rebuttal to claims made by the Navy in its affidavit to the

Delhi High Court, Kumar - who was sacked last year after being held guilty by a Naval board of inquiry that probed the war room leak - has informed the court that the "grounds given by the respondents (Navy) for avoiding a court martial are specious and invalid". "It is denied that merely because a co-accused happens to be a civilian or a foreigner that it is impracticable to conduct a court martial," he said in his rejoinder submitted in response to the Navy's affidavit of March this year.

NDTV, 19 December 2006

Home Ministry prepares coastal security plan

While Water Wing of BSF and Coast Guard has intensified patrolling in Sir Creek, the task in Andamans has been assigned to Navy and Coast Guard. ...

Asia Times, 22 December 2006

India moves to secure its shores

BANGALORE - After decades of focusing on securing its land borders from infiltration by militants, India is acting to address the vulnerability of its coastline to such infiltration. Under the Integrated Coastal Security Plan, an effort is being made to monitor more closely India's 7,500-kilometer coastline. Some US\$123 million is being spent to set up state-of-the-art police stations along the coast and to procure high-speed patrol boats, jeeps and other vehicles. The plan envisages closer coordination among the Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard and the Coastal Police in patrolling the coastline. Drawing attention to loopholes in India's coastal security hitherto, a commandant in the coast guard told Asia Times Online that while the navy operated on the high seas and the coast guard patrolled waters between 10 and 30 nautical miles from the coast, the area from the coastline to 10 nautical miles was left largely unpatrolled. "This is a zone that has a high density of boats and vessels; so boats carrying weapons are able to offload consignments on land easily. Besides, the kind of craft that the navy and coast guard have made it difficult for them to chase small and fast boats in shallow waters," he said.

Times of India, 23 December 2006

Pak security agency rescues Indian ship

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's maritime security agency rescued an Indian cargo ship 'Noore Panjtani' with 11 crew on it after the dhow sent out a distress call about onboard flooding triggering the possibility of sinking. Soon after leaving the Gwader port on Friday following repairs, the vessel sent out a distress call about flooding onboard due to which it was reported to be sinking off Pakistan's coast. On receiving the call, the MSA immediately directed a defender aircraft with media personnel on board to provide rescue assistance, a media report said on Saturday. The aircraft located the dhow 23 nautical miles south of the Ormara Naval Base and passed her position to Pakistan Navy ships 'Rajshahi' and 'Kalamat' on MSA's request.

Times of India, 24 December 2006

India did not sink Ghazi: Pak commander

NEW DELHI: Reviving past controversies, a former Pakistan Navy (PN) commander has said the Indian "claims" that PN submarine 'Ghazi' was sunk by them during the 1971 war was "false and utterly absurd". However, former top Indian Navy officers say the

Pakistani submarine was destroyed in explosion of depth-charges dropped by destroyer INS Rajput, which the attacking Pakistani vessel had mistaken for aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and was pursuing it. In an article sent to the premier journal 'Indian Defence Review', Commander (Retd) Muhammad Azam Khan said PNS Ghazi, which was then PN's only submarine with a capacity to reach Bay of Bengal and undertake operations on India's eastern sea, sank on the night of December 3-4, 1971 off Vishakhapatnam after an explosion.

The Hindu, 26 December 2006

Naval hospital INHS Pathanjali commissioned

Bangalore, Dec. 26 (PTI): A 141-bed hi-tech hospital was today commissioned at the naval base at Karwar in Karnataka by Vice-Admiral V K Singh, Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Services. The hospital in Utra Kannada district, named Indian Naval Hospital Ship (INHS) Patanjali after the ancient sage and pioneer of yoga and ayurveda, will initially be equipped with a 141-bed in-patient ward, state-of-the-art ICU, operation theatre, laboratory, radiological diagnostic equipment, and hi-tech dental equipment, a defence release said. The facility will be upgraded to a full-fledged command hospital in the near future, it said. The hospital complex is spread over six hectares and the main building has a floor area of 17,000 square metres. Work on planting 4,500 ornamental shrubs and 300 trees and creating a one-hectare lawn is in progress.

India Defence, 27 December 2006

Navy to Commission Third Large Amphibious Ship INS Shardul

Leading online news source 'Defense News' reports that the Indian Navy will commission its third large tank landing ship, INS Shardul, on January 4 2007 at its newest and largest naval base: Karwar, on the west coast of India. Built by Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers for more than \$100 million, Shardul has completed harbor acceptance trials. India's LST-L-class landing ships can carry 11 main battle tanks, 10 Army vehicles and 500 troops for amphibious operations. They also have a flight deck that can handle the U.S.-built Sea King or the home grown Dhruv helicopter. An Indian Navy official said the Shardul will make Karwar the hub for futuristic littoral warfare, which was included in the latest Navy doctrine for the first time. The Karwar base, which is being built for about \$7 billion, will be the biggest naval base in Asia. It will be the home port for the home grown Air Defense Ship aircraft carrier, French-built Scorpene submarines, a home grown nuclear submarine and the former Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov, now renamed INS Vikramaditya, which will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in the next two years.

The Hindu, 27 December 2006

Russia-aided service firm to be Navy's holding arm

NEW DELHI: Rosoboronservice India (ROS-I), a company especially created to address the Indian Navy's concerns about poor availability of Russian origin spares, has offered to provide life-cycle support to submarines, frigates and helicopters. Created through a special decree by President Vladimir Putin, the company's service centre for Kamov helicopters is in the final stages of finalisation. With 70 per cent of the Indian Navy's

assets estimated to be of Russian origin, Mr. Putin permitted eight companies to form a joint venture with an Indian firm to address complaints of poor maintenance support. ROS-I has also offered to be the Navy's holding arm for 120 frequently failing items, which could take from six months to one year to procure from the original manufacturers. Even as a part is repaired, ROS (I) will replace it with one from the stores to reduce asset unavailability.

Daily India, 28 December 2006

Pak Navy chief hopeful of amicable Sir Creek resolution

Karachi, Dec 28 (ANI): Pakistan's Navy Chief, Admiral Muhammad Afzal Tahir has said that recent developments in Indo-Pak talks on Sir Creek augured well for the contentious issue to be solved amicably. Karachi, Dec 28 (ANI): Pakistan's Navy Chief, Admiral Muhammad Afzal Tahir has said that recent developments in Indo-Pak talks on Sir Creek augured well for the contentious issue to be solved amicably. A six-member Indian Naval delegation led by Rear Admiral BR Rao of the Directorate of Hydrography, Naval Headquarters held meetings with Maj-Gen Jamil-ur-Rahman Afridi, the Surveyor General of Pakistan, to determine the modalities for undertaking the joint survey of Sir Creek. The survey is expected to be completed by March next year. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the 'progress achieved' in the talks. Admiral Tahir further said that the Pakistan Navy was keeping a close watch on the fast changing regional maritime scenario, reports The Nation. He said the current flux in Afghanistan, deteriorating conditions in Iraq and the Iran-US standoff had made the region, particularly the western half of the northern Arabian Sea, a focal point of maritime interest. "We, therefore, need to critically analyse the environment and be ready to respond to any situation to safeguard our national interests," he added. (ANI)

India Defence, 29 December 2006

Navy to Commission Third Large Amphibious Ship INS Shardul

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Strategy Page, 30 December 2006

China Builds a Nimitz Class Carrier

December 30, 2006: A Chinese entertainment company has built a Nimitz class aircraft

carrier. The vessel can be seen via Google Earth (31.10,121.01), west of Shanghai, at the Military Education Center of the 925 acre "Orient Green Boat After-School Camp for Youngsters." A bus ticket to the carrier, from Shanghai, costs about eight bucks. Just in case you are in the areas. The carrier is not to scale, it appears to be about $\frac{3}{4}$ scale, and has replicas of Chinese warplanes on the "flight deck." The "carrier" is actually a steel frame building constructed in the shape of a carrier. Inside are meeting rooms, and areas for the display of more military themed material.