

The Asian Age, 2 December 2008

### **Antony pulls up Mehta, Navy denies claim**

New Delhi: An upset defence minister A.K. Antony is believed to have "pulled up" Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta at a meeting on Monday on reports that the Navy had failed to act on intelligence inputs received by it but naval sources later denied that Admiral Mehta or the Navy had been criticised by the minister. Mr Antony is also believed to have sought an explanation from the Naval Chief on the alleged failure by the Navy to prevent the Mumbai terror attacks but Admiral Mehta is said to have emphasised the stand of the Navy, that no specific intelligence input was received by it from intelligence agencies before the Mumbai terror attacks...

The Times of India, 2 December 2008

### **Systemic failure in coastal security and intelligence inputs: Navy**

New Delhi: The Navy on Tuesday admitted that it was a "systemic failure" on the part of the security and intelligence establishment that led to the terror attacks in Mumbai and that lacunae did exist in India's coastal security and intelligence sharing mechanisms. It maintained that it did not receive any "actionable" input to effectively prevent the tragedy...

The Times of India, 2 December 2008

### **Navy, Coast Guard start patrolling high seas**

New Delhi/Mumbai: The Navy and Coast Guard have launched extensive patrolling of the high seas close to the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) with Pakistan in wake of the devastating multiple-terror strikes in Mumbai last week. Coming as this does in the backdrop of escalating tension with Pakistan, with Islamabad threatening to redeploy 100,000 more soldiers on its border with India after diverting them from the Afghan border, the Navy and Coast Guard were quick to dismiss any suggestion of "a mobilisation" of warships on the western seaboard...

The Hindu, 3 December 2008

### **Navy chief upset with electronic media**

New Delhi: The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sureesh Mehta, has expressed anger at the electronic media's coverage of the Mumbai terror attacks. Addressing a press conference on the eve of Navy Day, he also pulled up the media for casting aspersions on the Navy's sinking of a pirate vessel in the Gulf of Aden by "going all the way to the house of the vessel's Thai owner" to interview him...

The Indian Express, 3 December 2008

### **Navy chief says input too vague but alert gave coordinates of Lashkar ship**

New Delhi: While Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta today claimed the Navy had not received any actionable intelligence ahead of the Mumbai attack, it now turns out that the intelligence input received on November 19 even provided the exact coordinates of the "LeT (Lashkar-e-Toiba) vessel" four days before it entered Indian waters. The location given in the intercept, 24.16. 36 N and 67.02.04 E, shows the vessel was about 60 km off Karachi on that day hovering very close to international waters, possibly observing Indian fishing trawlers...

The Asian Age, 3 December 2008

### **'Navy didn't get actionable intel'**

New Delhi: Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Tuesday admitted that there had been a "systemic failure" in the country due to which the Mumbai terror attacks took place that has resulted in public outrage. Admiral Mehta stated that the Navy had not received any "actionable" intelligence inputs from intelligence agencies before the

Mumbai terror attacks...

The Asian Age, 3 December 2008

**Op-Ed: Navy needs swift reforms to deter enemies at sea**

Navy day falls on Thursday, December 4, but the Indian Navy will not be celebrating this year due last week's terror attacks in Mumbai. In addition to the inevitable post-mortems and finger pointing after the Mumbai attacks, the Navy would no doubt have taken stock of periodic and recent happenings. It is indeed ironic that after recently earning accolades and goodwill with its anti-piracy operations in the distant Gulf of Aden, the Navy, along with the Coast Guard, the Marine Police and the intelligence agencies, is facing questions at home about its preparedness to deal with terror coming from the sea...

The Indian Express, 4 December 2008

**Navy Chief fumes at media, gets facts wrong**

New Delhi: Navy Chief Sureesh Mehta lashed out against the media at the annual Navy briefing on Tuesday, but got his facts wrong. The fuming Admiral, who at one point even told reporters that 'I would have chopped your heads off' for an alleged 'breach of privilege', said a "Colonel was dismissed after he fired an artillery round on requests by an NDTV reporter that resulted in retaliatory fire which killed three jawans". However, Army records show there was no such dismissal...

The Indian Express, 11 December 2008

**Coast Guard moved on LeT alert but was all at sea**

New Delhi: Internal inquiries into the Mumbai Terror attacks have revealed that despite clear intelligence inputs the Coast Guard and the Navy failed to either spot or interdict Al Hussaini, the Pakistani ship that carried the Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorists from an Indus creek in Azizabad near Karachi. And this took place at a time when warships and some IAF aircraft were participating in an annual exercise for the defence of Gujarat...

The Asian Age, 12 December 2008

**Navy patrol could have averted strike**

New Delhi: The Indian Navy had sent several of its vessels and aircraft to patrol Indian waters in the Arabian Sea on November 19 and 20 after receiving intelligence inputs about a Lashkar-e-Tayyaba vessel but did not continue the search beyond that period, the government's statement before Parliament on Thursday has revealed. Had the Navy continued the search beyond that time period, the Mumbai attacks could have been averted...

The Times of India, 13 December 2008

**Indian Navy repulses attack on ship off Somalia**

New Delhi: In another successful anti-piracy operation, Navy warship on Saturday repulsed an attack on a merchant vessel in the Gulf of Aden and nabbed 23 Somali and Yemeni sea brigands, in a show of resolve to weed out the menace that affected maritime trade in the region. The pirates on two speed boats had surrounded the merchant vessel flying the Ethiopian flag around noon, when INS Mysore warship intervened and warded off the attack, Navy spokesperson said here...

The Hindu, 14 December 2008

**Indian Navy foils piracy bid**

New Delhi: The Indian Navy on Saturday prevented pirates from attacking a merchant vessel flying an Ethiopian flag in the Gulf of Aden and took 23 into custody.

Responding to a distress call by MV Gibe, INS Mysore on anti-piracy patrol in the area, swung into action against the pirates in two boats, a Defence Ministry release said. The apprehended included 12 Somalis and 11 Yemenis. Seven AK-47s, three other automatic rifles, 13 loaded magazines, a rocket-propelled grenade-launcher, rockets, cartridges and grenades were found in the boats...

The Hindu, 15 December 2008

### **No takers for seized pirates Sandeep Dikshit**

New Delhi: The Navy is saddled with two-dozen pirates it captured in the Gulf of Aden on Saturday with no country willing to take them into custody till reports last came in. India has now approached Yemen asking whether it would like to prosecute the pirates in line with its commitment on anti-piracy operations in the area. Besides, according to the Navy, 11 of the pirates are from Yemen. The remaining 12, arrested by the Navy while responding to a distress call from a merchant vessel, are Somalis...

The Asian Age, 16 December 2008

### **Navy aircraft under review**

New Delhi: In an action taken report submitted before Parliament on Monday, defence minister A.K. Antony has stated that the case for acquisition of medium-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft for the Navy is under progress and that these are "planned for induction during the current plan period". The report was in response to recommendations made earlier by a parliamentary standing committee on defence which had pointed to the shortage of both short-range and long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft for the Navy...

The Indian Express, 18 December 2008

### **Indian Navy hands over pirates to Yemen**

Sanaa: The Indian Navy handed over on Wednesday 12 Somali and 11 Yemeni pirates it caught at sea to authorities in Yemen, a security official said. The handover took place in the southern port of Aden, said the Yemeni official, adding that the pirates will be interrogated and later sent to face charges in court. The official stressed that Yemen has the right to try Somali pirates because their arrest took place inside Yemeni waters...

The Indian Express, 20 December 2008

### **Navy battles age, gaps in surveillance capability exposed in Mumbai attacks**

New Delhi: The smallest and often neglected arm of the defence forces is surprisingly the most well-off in terms of equipment but has two critical gaps, one in surveillance capabilities that has already been exploited by the Mumbai attack planners, and the other under the sea, where battles of the future will be decided. The Navy is stuck in a peculiar predicament. It has enough warships on the surface but lacks enough "eyes in the sky" to direct them. It is struggling with a long list of delays and faulty equipment from Russia...

The Hindu, 21 December 2008

### **Radar cover for entire coastline**

New Delhi: The government on Saturday cleared emergency purchases to add punch to the Coast Guard's capability for surveillance and interception. A high-level meeting here, chaired by Defence Minister A.K. Antony, also approved nine more Coast Guard stations and radar coverage for the entire coastline. It identified vulnerable areas where additional ships and aircraft will be deployed...

The Indian Express, 21 December 2008

**Antony okays 9 new coast guard stations**

New Delhi: After serious lapses in the country's coastal security system were exposed during the recent Terror attacks, the Defence Ministry has approved a series of measures, including setting up of new Coast Guard stations, radar coverage for the entire shoreline, and procuring new interceptor boats for patrolling the seas. In a special meeting called in the wake of the Mumbai attacks, Defence Minister A K Antony also approved the deployment of additional ships and aircraft by the Coast Guard to protect vulnerable areas...