

The Hindu, 1 February 2007

Navy team becomes first military unit to ski to South Pole

New Delhi, Jan. 31 (PTI): An Indian Navy team has become the world's first defence unit to ski to the South Pole. The 10-member team led by Commander Satyabrata Dam reached the South Pole on December 28, 2006 after skiing through the white continent and hoisted the tricolour in the coldest region of the world. "It is a great achievement not only for the navy but for the country, which is proud of our men," Minister of States for Defence Rao Inderjit Singh said at a ceremony here today to flag-in the expedition. Congratulating the navy personnel, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta said, "The navy provides an opportunity to show how to be adventurous in a non-combative way and the efforts of our men have brought laurels for the country."

NDTV News, 1 February 2007

Navy to set up second base in Vizag

The Indian Navy plans to set up its second base at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh that could take care of several strategic interests on the East Coast. "We have recently acquired 5,000 acres for the Navy, for them to set up an alternate Naval Base Centre," said K Ramakrishna, Incharge Minister, Visakhapatnam. The base, which will be located 50 km south of Vizag in Rambilli Mandal, will have comprehensive anti-air, anti-submarine and amphibious capability.

Times of India, 2 February 2007

Navy to conduct massive wargames

NEW DELHI: In one of the largest maritime exercises in recent times, India's western and eastern naval fleets have amassed their warships, submarines, aircraft and helicopters on the western seaboard to conduct intensive combat manoeuvres in the entire Arabian Sea. Given the sheer size of this "theatre readiness operational exercise" or "Tropex" and its proximity to the Pakistani waters, New Delhi has given "advance notice" to Islamabad under a long-standing bilateral agreement.

The Economic Times, 4 February 2007

Elgi Equipments bags order from Indian Navy

COIMBATORE: Elgi Equipments (EEL), a leading integrated air compressor manufacturer, has bagged orders worth Rs 6.7 crore from the Indian Navy for replacement of Russian compressors fitted on board Mine Counter Measure Vessels (MCMVs). Coming with a robust design and simple operation, these air cooled compressors will replace the existing water cooling technology of Russian origin that has complex mixed cooling system in the MCMVs. Mr Jairam Varadaraj, managing director, EEL, told ET: "Having 12 MCMVs in fleet, Indian Navy was finding difficult to get support for existing Russian origin machines. The contract is awarded to us on the basis of proven trial for a period of one year".

Financial Express, 7 February 2007

Heralding the Next Gen weapons

Echoing these views is Marwan Lahoud, CEO of the guided weapons company, MBDA. A joint venture involving the Franco-German EADS aerospace group, Britain's BAe

Systems PLC and Finmeccanica SPA of Italy, MBDA has business links going back some 30 years with India. Most significantly, there has been a very long-standing production cooperation with the Indian company BDL for the Milan anti-tank infantry weapon. Our air-to-air Magic 1/2 and S530D weapons have been in service on the Indian Air Force's Mirage 2000 and the Indian Navy's Sea Harrier for many years as well, says Lahaud. He adds: The historical links are being maintained today with the recent orders for the ATAM air-to-air missile for the Army and Air Force's ALH helicopters, and of course, we will be equipping the Indian Navy's new Scorpene submarines with the SM39 Exocet anti-ship missile. In fact, we consider India as one of the major pillars of our current and future business and marketing strategy beyond our domestic markets in France, Germany, Italy and the UK.

The Hindu, 8 February 2007

Navy Chief for enhanced ties with UAE

waters figured prominently during talks between the Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta and top brass of United Arab Emirates (UAE) armed forces. Admiral Mehta, on his first visit abroad after taking over as Navy Chief, met the Army, Navy and Air Force chiefs of the UAE and stressed the need for enhanced cooperation, including maritime security in the Gulf waters.

The Hindu, 10 February 2007

India wants cooperative ties with China: Navy chief

ABU DHABI: The rise of China is not a factor driving the Indian Navy's interest in safeguarding the sea lanes heading towards the Strait of Malacca, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Suresh Mehta said. In an interview with The Hindu during his three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, Admiral Mehta said: "We do not consider China as an adversary at any point of time. We would like to have cooperative relations with it as we do with other countries. In fact, in two months our ships would call on Chinese ports, and even conduct a preliminary exercise there." China had not shown any "particular sensitivity" towards India's concerns about ensuring an uninterrupted flow of transit traffic towards the Strait of Malacca. After the tsunami when the Navy proved its ability to provide humanitarian relief beyond Indian shores "there might have been a perception in the United States that India could be involved in cooperative ventures which are regional in character," he said.

The Hindu, 10 February 2007

Lockheed Martin pitches aircraft, helicopters to Indian Navy

Bangalore, Feb. 9 (PTI): US defence major Lockheed Martin today said it was awaiting word from the India Navy on its proposals to sell it the P-3C Orion maritime surveillance aircraft and MH-60R multi-role helicopter. Lockheed has submitted proposals in this regard to Indian authorities and has also offered to sell its F-16 fighters, C-130J Hercules transport aircraft and a missile defence system, the firm's top executives said here. The P-3C Orion is a "proven low-risk solution" for the Indian Navy's long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare programme, Michael Meyer, Lockheed's business development director for maritime surveillance, said. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Aero India show here, he said a request for proposal (RFP) was issued

by the navy in April 2006 and Lockheed "submitted its proposals last year".

The Tribune, 11 February 2007

India to spend \$35 b on military aircraft

India is set to spend \$ 35 billion on military aviation over the next 20 years as most of its existing fleet needs to be replaced sooner or later. This will put Pakistan at a strategic disadvantage with the country finding it difficult to get sellers to maintain the military balance with India. Two different reports, released at Aero India show, clearly indicate that buyers, may they be Russian, American or European, were flocking to offer the best in military technology to India and there was immense competition for the Indian Air Force's 126 fighter-jet order, besides other aircraft, to replace an ageing Indian fleet.

Hindustan Times, 13 February 2007

'Indian Ocean is global terror hub'

Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Tuesday said the Indian Ocean region had become the 'de facto home of global terrorism', with many regional states covertly or even inadvertently aiding and abetting subversive elements. Mehta was speaking at a seminar titled 'Freedom of the Seas', which was organised to mark the second anniversary of the National Maritime Foundation.

Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka, 15 February 2007

India seizes weapons, explosives destined for Tigers

India's Navy and Coast Guard have seized two caches of weapons and explosive-making material destined for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and detained five people, officials said yesterday. Both hauls were made off the coast of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. In the biggest seizure on Monday, a Navy patrol recovered nearly three tons of material for making explosives from a small boat off the coast of Rameswaram, about 700 kilometers south of Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, said Navy Cmdr. Philip van Haltern.

BBC News, 16 February 2007

Navy 'recovers claymore bearings'

The Sri Lankan navy says that it has recovered more than a million steel ball bearings - used in claymore mines - after a skirmish at sea. The navy says that two Tamil Tiger boats were destroyed in the clash off the north-west coast. A spokesman said he believed they had foiled an attempt by the rebels to smuggle the ball bearings into the country to be used in attacks.

Hindustan Times, 18 February 2007

Coast Guard stepping out of Navy's shadow

The Coast Guard may be the youngest of the armed forces but it is inching closer towards establishing a formidable identity of its own. And its efforts to step out of the "Navy's shadow" were backed by Defence Minister AK Antony, who said on Sunday that the Coast Guard would be provided more ships, aircraft, surveillance equipment and unmanned aerial vehicles to make it a reckonable force in the Indian Ocean Region. He said the extension of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) after the delineation of the

continental shelf would place additional responsibilities on the Coast Guard.

Pakistan Times, 21 February 2007

Pak Navy to hold Multinational Naval Exercise 'Aman 07'

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy will organize a Multinational Naval Exercise " Aman 07" and an International Maritime Conference from March 6 to 13. This was announced by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Afzal Tahir, while addressing a news conference at the COMKAR Office here on Tuesday. He said that the exercise will be conducted at the harbour and the sea from March 6 to 13 whereas the conference will be held from March 4 to 6 under the auspices of the National centre of Maritime Policy Research- a Maritime focused think tank which has been recently established under the auspices of Baharia University.

The Hindu, 22 February 2007

Red alert sounded along Tamil Nadu coast

MADURAI/CHENNAI: Intelligence experts estimate that 15 suicide mission boats of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are `hibernating' in the waters between India and Sri Lanka. They are of the opinion that these are not aimed at India; the LTTE, perhaps, hopes a repeat of the Kattunayake airport strike, this time at a major seaport. For, the Sea Tigers are under growing pressure from the Sri Lankan Navy. The Indian waters, once considered safe for hibernating vessels, are no longer so, with the Coast Guard and the Navy having stepped up their presence in the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar. Both the Coast Guard and the Navy have `smart patrolling plans.' They follow it up with real-time intelligence sharing at the unit level.

The Hindu, 24 February 2007

Uninhabited islands could become terror hubs: navy chief

Kochi, Feb. 23 (PTI): India's numerous uninhabited islands could become hubs for terrorist activities and "launch pads" for subversive activities on the mainland, navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehtra said today. "At no stage have I ever said there is any threat to the mainland from these islands. I am only saying that the possibility of using these islands as a stepping stone for going across to the mainland could well be there," he said, referring to reports in this regard. The country has many uninhabited islands that could, in the absence of regular patrolling, become hubs for terrorist activities, he said during an informal talk with reporters at the naval base here. "We have to ensure the islands are well-protected and people of this nature are not allowed to enter them," he said.

Financial Express, 26 February 2007

Raising technology-driven troopers

Technology will now come to the defence of Indian armed forces. Indian Army, Navy and Air Force are scouting for arsenal to prepare for a network-centric warfare. And they are being wooed by the likes of Boeing, Lockheed Martin, GE, Rolls Royce, Northrop Grumman, MDDA, Snecma and Pratt & Whitney, for the supply of defence equipment and materials. Conflicts since the first Gulf War have demonstrated that a networked force improves information sharing that enhances situational awareness; enables speed of command (decision making); thereby increasing mission effectiveness.

Tamil Net, Sri Lanka, 26 February 2007

India donates second warship to Sri Lanka

India is to grant the Sri Lanka Navy another ocean-going warship as part of greater cooperation between the two countries, media reports in Colombo said Sunday. The Nation newspaper said India 'will either grant or lease a coast guard vessel' to the Sri Lanka Navy. The former Indian Coast Guard vessel, 'Varaha', is similar to the Offshore Patrol craft (OPC) which India provided in 2000 and which is now the flagship of the SLN, the paper said. The Varaha will be the third large 'blue water' warship in the SLN's fleet along with the US-supplied cutter. The Varaha has already been serving with the SLN as a substitute while the SLNS Sayura, the flagship of the Sri Lanka navy, which was bought from India seven years ago, was being refurbished in India.

Hindustan Times, 27 February 2007

India, SA for joint fight against maritime terrorism

The Men in Blue will have to slog it out in the Caribbean to counter the South African challenge during the ICC Cricket World Cup next month. But even as the cricketers bay for each other's blood on the cricket field, a new love story involving the two countries is set to unfold in the Indian Ocean region (IOR). India and South Africa are weighing the possibility of formulating a system of regional cooperation in the IOR to combat threats emanating from non-state actors, particularly those related to terrorism, armed robbery and piracy.

RxPG News, 27 February 2007

Indian Navy validates new maritime warfare doctrine

New Delhi, Feb 26 - Utilising some of its newly inducted assets like unmanned aerial vehicles -, airborne early warning helicopters and cutting edge missiles, the Indian Navy has validated its new warfare doctrine during an exercise conducted off the country's west coast. The just-concluded TROPEX - 2007, the navy's largest annual exercise, commenced on Jan 30 and saw the participation of all the force's major combatants, as also significant elements from the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Coast Guard. 'The thrust of this year's edition was to validate the concept of 'Maritime Manoeuvre from the Sea' that is designed to ensure that in a short, swift and intense conflict, the navy is able to directly address and favourably influence the progress and outcome of the air-land battle,' a navy spokesman said Monday.