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**A new doctrine for the Navy** (Rahul Bedi)

THE Indian Navy is endeavouring to project power through "reach, multiplied by sustainability" across its "legitimate areas of interest" stretching from the Persian Gulf to the Malacca Straits. For the first time, the Navy has stressed the need for a submarine-based credible MND capability that is "inexorably linked" to India pursuing an independent foreign policy posture. "If India is to exude the quiet confidence of a nation that seeks to be neither deferential nor belligerent, but is aware of its own role in the larger global scheme, it will need to recognise what constitutes strategic currency in a Clausewitzian sense," the 148-page analysis declares. It goes on to state that for India to occupy its "appropriate" place in the global hierarchy as a secular, vibrant and economically thriving democracy there is a "strong case" for it to acquire a "non-provocative strategic capability" through the "most viable platform" - the submarine. The document strongly urges the Navy to "recognise" its MND responsibilities and to vindicate them swiftly. Official sources said that to achieve the sea-leg of India's under-construction MND, the Navy reportedly entered into a covert agreement with Moscow recently for the lease-purchase of two Akula (Bars)-class Type 971 nuclear-powered submarines (SSNs) for around \$700 million each, with the option of acquiring a third one. The first submarine would reportedly be handed over by 2005.

Through a prudent concentration of force and its judicious dispersal, the Navy plans to play a proactive role that is operationally capable of countering effectively distant, emerging threats, protecting sea lanes of communication (SLOC) and combating piracy. It also wants to control the strategically located IOR, the world's busiest waterways, by dominating "choke points, important islands and vital trade routes". Over the past decade, the IOR had been the largest recipient of warships - almost half of those transferred worldwide. To activate this strategy the Navy plans to start policing the

IOR later this year, along with the navies of Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines, to check piracy, trafficking of weapons and narcotics, and all potential threats to commercial sea lanes. Earlier, at the United States Navy's request, as part of the growing India-U.S. military cooperation, the Indian Navy's missile boats had patrolled the Malacca Straits alongside U.S. Navy vessels for a year after 9/11.

The Navy views with trepidation the rapid resurgence of the Chinese Navy, the only Asian navy with SLMB capability and one that was rapidly moving from being a coastal navy to a formidable ocean going force. In addition to operating an aircraft carrier by 2015 - the Chinese have acquired decommissioned carriers from Australia and Russia in order to study their construction details - the Indian Navy envisages China embarking on the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) as soon as it is able to project power well beyond China's shores. China, which spends 24 per cent of its defence outlay on PLAN according to the Indian Navy's analysis, also has burgeoning naval cooperation with Myanmar. It is helping Myanmar modernise its naval bases at Hainggyi, the Coco's islands, Akyab, Za Det Kyi, Mergui and Khaukphyu by building radar, refitting and refuelling facilities. The Chinese are also believed to have established a Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) facility on Coco's islands, 30 nautical miles from the Andaman and Nicobar islands, enabling them to monitor India's missile tests off the eastern Orissa coast. To counter PLAN and to expand its strategic reach, the Indian Navy views itself in 2012-15 as a force comprising about 135 vessels - down from the present strength of around 150 ships, but far less than the optimum level of 200 vessels - and centred round at least two, if not three, carrier battle groups (CBGs). These are to include boats with long-range precision-guided weapons capable of anti-ship, anti-submarine and decisive land-attack missions.

Over the next decade, the Navy hopes to commission the indigenously designed 32,000-35,000 tonne air defence ship (ADS), work on which is to begin, following repeated delays, sometime later this year at Cochin Shipyard Limited. On June 4, the Navy launched INS Satpura, the second indigenously built 4,900-tonne, Project 17 New Nilgiri (Leander) class stealth frigate at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), over three years behind schedule. INS Shivalik, the first Project 17 ship launched a year ago and an enlarged and modified version of the Project 1135.6 frigates, is likely to be commissioned by 2005-06. INS Satpura and INS Sahyadri would be ready at 18-24 months intervals thereafter.

Indian Navy Press Release, 8 July 2004

### **New Guided Missile Frigate Joins the Indian Navy**

New Delhi, 7 July: INS Betwa, the latest Guided Missile Frigate built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata was commissioned into the Indian Navy today morning at Kolkata by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Madhvendra Singh. 'BETWA' is a guided missile frigate and is the second in series of the P-16A class built by the GRSE. The ship, like her predecessor INS Brahmaputra, has been designed with a sophisticated indigenous weapon and sensor suite to enhance the Indian Navy's future combat capability. The commissioning of this ship reinforces the Navy's sustained commitment to indigenisation and reflects the technological strides made by the Indian shipbuilding and support industry.

The Tribune, 11 July 2004

### **Khukri was hit by 3 torpedoes** (Vijay Mohan)

Ropar, July 11: While the Navy establishment is engaged in a debate whether to bring up the remains of INS Khukri, which sank off the Gujarat coast during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, a survivor from the ship has disputed portions of the official history pertaining to the tragedy. Chanchal Singh Gill, who was a shipwright artificer serving onboard the Khukri during the war, said the ship was hit by three

torpedoes and not one as is claimed in official accounts.

In March this year, Navy hydrography ships discovered a 300-metre metal object covered with layers of sand and silt at a depth of about 60 metres about 40 kilometres south of Diu. Given the size of the object, its location and orientation, the Navy believes it is the Khukri lying on its keel on the seabed. INS Khukri was sunk by a Pakistani submarine, PNS Hangor, on the night of December 9. According to official history, the submarine fired two torpedoes at the ship, one of which went astray and the other hit it midship, causing it to sink within a few minutes. The submarine fired a third torpedo at INS Kuthar, but the ship maneuvered to avoid being hit and sailed off into the darkness.

"I was on the deck when the first torpedo hit the ship near the propeller, and the explosion threw me overboard," Gill said. "Thereafter, I saw a second torpedo hit the ship's middle, causing some ammunition to explode. The third torpedo hit the ship's bow," he added. Ironically, the ship was hit when there was jubilation onboard about reports of another enemy submarine, PNS Ghazi being sunk by Indian warships on the eastern seaboard, being confirmed.

The Hindu, 16 July 2004

**'Kozhikode coast turning into a hub of arms smuggling'**

KOCHI, JULY 15. The Kozhikode coast is turning into a hub of arms and narcotics smuggling and this has necessitated a Coast Guard station at Beypore, the Director General of Coast Guard, Sureesh Mehta, said. He was addressing presspersons aboard CGS Varuna, which is anchored off the Naval Base here. "I had called on the Chief Minister, A K Antony, last year and held discussions with him. We have been pushing hard and are just short of another round of negotiations on land acquisition and other details. The station can be started within 10 months of the land being handed over to us. The State Government should utilise our

services since smuggling of arms, explosives and narcotic substances has been threatening peace in the area," he said.

The Hindu, 18 July 2004

**Navy is a welfare State: Admiral Madhvendra Singh**

KOCHI, JULY 17. The Southern Naval Command here today bade farewell to the outgoing Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Madhvendra Singh, at a ceremonial parade held at the Naval Base. Addressing the parade, the Admiral differentiated between service and work, and said the Navy was a service that called for all personnel to be on duty round-the-clock requiring sacrifices in terms of time, energy or even life. He pointed out that the Navy was also a 'welfare State' that looks after the needs of the personnel right from their enrolment to their retirement.

The Hindu, 18 July 2004

**Test rig at HAL to handle Navy's needs**

BANGALORE, JULY 17. A "universal test rig" set up at the Helicopter Division of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. in Bangalore promises to handle much of the testing needs of the Indian Navy. The Rs. 70-crore test facility will save the Navy some Rs. 6 crore a year when the rig becomes operational early next year, a senior naval officer told presspersons here on Saturday. Initially, the rig would serve as a "Sea King Transmission Test Facility" for the Navy's 26 British-made Sea King helicopters, N.R. Mohanty, chairman of HAL, said.

The Hindu, 18 July 2004

**Air Defence Ship to be ready by 2010**

The "Air Defence Ship" (ADS) was expected to be ready by 2010, the Vice-Admiral said. The ADS is planned to be a 40,000-ton class carrier equipped with a "ski-jump," a short upwardly inclined runway for aircraft. It will carry between 20 and 25 aircraft, including fighters such as the MiG 29 K, the Light Combat Aircraft (Navy), and helicopters such as Sea King, Chetak, and the ALH. A second ADS may

also be built, Vice-Admiral Gopalachari said.

The Times of India, 19 July 2004

**High-level Israeli Defence delegation visiting India** (PTI)

NEW DELHI: A high-level Israeli Defence delegation is visiting India from Saturday for talks, signaling that bilateral security cooperation would continue under the new Congress-led government. The delegation, comprising senior Israeli Defence Ministry officials and high-level executives from major armament manufacturers, is scheduled to hold talks with top Army, Navy, IAF and other defence officials, according to highly placed sources here. The talks of the Israeli delegation would focus on sale of anti-ship Barak Missiles for Indian Naval warships, medium range and high altitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for the Army and Navy, sale of sensors and human remote sensing devices and night vision for anti-infiltration operations. Israel and India are also involved in close cooperation in the upgradation of Russian-supplied T-72 tanks specially making them night operation capable and in upgradation of the Mig-21 Bison aircraft.

The Times of India, 23 July 2004

**Navy begins to induct BrahMos** (Rajat Pandit)

NEW DELHI: The Navy has begun inducting the deadly BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, in some of its frontline destroyers and guided-missile frigates. Sources said the five Rajput or Kashin-II class destroyers in the Navy's surface fleet would be among the first ones to induct this unique air-breathing missile, jointly developed with Russia. "The destroyer INS Rajput, as it is, has been serving as a trial platform for the anti-ship BrahMos missile for over a year now. These destroyers are currently armed with the older P-20M missiles. BrahMos will give them tremendous long-range strike capabilities," said a source.

Sify.com, 28 July 2004

**Elgi ties up with German co**

Compressor manufacturing major Elgi Equipments has entered into a collaborative venture with J.P. Sauer & Sohn of Germany for supply of the modern compressors to the Indian Navy. Dr Jay Varadaraj, Managing Director of the city-based Elgi Equipments, told Business Line that the venture envisaged local manufacture of compressors for new generation battle ships. "This will enable the Indian Navy to access advance technology at competitive rates," he said. He said Elgi Equipments would be supplying compressors to aircraft carriers, large frigates, apart from importing from the venture partner, which would go directly to submarines.

The Hindu, 28 July 2004

**Sea Tigers' threat to Indian security** (V. Suryanarayan)

The emergence of the 'Sea Tigers' as a credible fighting force in India's maritime neighbourhood has to be analysed in the context of the changing strategic environment, the objectives of the Sea Tigers, and the likely dangers posed by maritime terrorism. Sri Lanka and foreign intelligence agencies estimate the strength of the Sea Tigers at 2,000 to 3,000 cadres. They have acquired the latest equipment from several countries in Asia and Europe to enhance their fighting capabilities. According to an LTTE publication, the cadres include specialists from disciplines ranging from marine engineering to naval architecture. The Sea Tigers deploy squadrons of heavily armed gunboats and speedboats. Jane's International Defence Review, in a report on Sri Lanka, published a few years ago, pointed out that the Sea Tigers "have taken on the Sri Lanka navy with unprecedented success." A recent publication of the Woodrow Wilson School of Politics and International Affairs for the Centre for Strategic and International Studies reckons that they have destroyed 30 to 50 per cent of Sri Lanka's navy coastal craft. A country of India's size and resources should not merely assess the dangers emanating from a changing strategic environment. It should also zealously

safeguard its autonomy in decision-making. New Delhi should develop the political will to pursue courses of action that promote India's national interest. India should work with the objective of neutralising the Sea Tigers at the earliest opportunity.

The Hindu, 29 July 2004

**Coast Guard to have hotline with its Pakistan counterpart**

CHENNAI, JULY 28. Talks between the Indian Coast Guard and Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency on establishing a hotline communication link are at an advanced stage. Both the sides are discussing a memorandum of understanding and are expected to "come to an acceptable solution soon," according to Sureesh Mehta, Director-General of the Coast Guard. Addressing presspersons at the Coast Guard Air Station here today, Vice-Admiral Mehta said the hotline would help mitigate the sufferings of fishermen of both the countries who strayed into the other nation's maritime boundary. It would facilitate an early release of fishermen caught for such violation.

Newkerala.com, 30 July 2004

**Indian Navy gets set for another aircraft carrier (ANI)**

Washington, July 29: The Indian Navy will soon have another aircraft carrier at its disposal. Informed sources were quoted by the *Daily Times* as saying that the Italian state-owned shipbuilding company Fincantieri SpA has signed two agreements with the Cochin Shipyard for the construction of a new aircraft carrier. The planned 38,000-tonne air defence ship will be one of the largest aircraft carriers in service with conventional propulsion based on 4 GE LM 2500 gas turbines. Unlisted Fincantieri, however, did not disclose the details of the deal.

The Telegraph, 31 July 2004

**Reform gong goes: call for joint forces (Sujan Datta)**

New Delhi, July 30: The senior-most armed forces commander today sounded the bell for reforms in the Indian military that seek

to mould the army, navy and the air force into a free-flowing integrated fighting machine. Admiral Madhvendra Singh retired today as chairman, chiefs of staff committee, with an appeal to break down the compartments in which India's land, water and aviation forces have traditionally operated in. He said the armed forces should now evolve a joint operational doctrine stressing on unified air, land, sea and special operations throughout the theatre of war. Admiral Singh's vision of a force fit for future wars shakes the Indian military from its traditional British moorings and draws heavily on the concept of jointness developed and practised by the Americans in successive operations. The establishment of the headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff in the Indian military should set the armed forces on the road to jointness.

Admiral Singh today passed the baton as chairman, chiefs of staff committee, to successor Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy with a reminder that he had just overseen the beginning of a reform process and it was up to the next commanders to take that to fruition. Admiral Singh, among whose achievements is the formulation of a maritime doctrine that was circulated in the last month of his tenure, favoured the laying down of principles of jointness for all the three armed forces.

The Hindu, 31 July 2004

**India needs n-submarines, says new Naval Chief**

New Delhi, July 31. (PTI): India needs nuclear submarines and it is upto the Government to take a decision in this regard, Admiral Arun Prakash said today soon after taking over as the new Chief of the Naval Staff. Though there have been reports that India was negotiating with Russia to acquire on lease two nuclear-powered Akula class submarines, it is for the first time that a senior official has acknowledged that New Delhi was keen to acquire such a class of submarines.