

The Hindu, 1 July 2006

### **Russia may lease nuclear submarine to India (Vladimir Radyuhin)**

Moscow: A nuclear-powered submarine that will reportedly be leased to India was launched at a shipyard in the Russian Far East, a news agency report said. The Nerpa nuclear submarine was launched at the Amur shipyard and will join Russia's Pacific Fleet in 2007 after undergoing sea trials, the RIA Novosti news agency quoted Vice-Admiral Anatoly Shlemov on Friday. However, earlier reports said the Nerpa submarine was to be leased for 10 years to India under a 2004 secret deal. Indian and Russian officials have denied the reports.

The Indian Express, 6 July 2006

### **'Too much on' at home, Navy chief defers visit**

New Delhi, July 5: Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash has decided to postpone his week-long visit to France scheduled for July-end indefinitely. It is learnt that the Navy chief felt it to be an "inappropriate" time to go abroad and therefore, decided to defer his visit. Sources said there was "too much going on" with the possibility that the naval force may be roped in to assist in the investigations into the dealings of one of its recently retired officers, Commander Mukesh Saini. Saini has been questioned by Intelligence officials in connection with a national-level breach of the country's intelligence setup, reported by The Indian Express on July 2. A Rear Admiral from Naval Headquarters was in France late last month for staff talks between the two naval forces, ahead of Admiral Prakash's visit. While the navy is not formally inquiring into the Saini case, considering that the officer quit service at the end of March and is no longer subject to military administration, sources said Saini's career path and duties in the Navy were under internal scrutiny.

The Tribune, 7 July 2006

### **CCS nod to purchase of 3 Russian warships**

New Delhi, July 6: Within weeks of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash returning from Russia after overlooking the progress being made on the purchase front of the three more stealth warships, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) today gave its clearance for their purchase along with 28 submarine-fired cruise missiles. The three Russian Krivak-class frigates would be acquired at a cost of Rs 5,114 crore. The first one would be delivered five years after the signing of the contract and the subsequent two within 12 months of the delivery of the first warship, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee told mediapersons after the meeting of the CCS chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Mr Mukherjee said the purchase of the three Russian frigates was a follow-up order to the purchase of three of the same type of warships in the late 1990s. The Indian Navy has already inducted three Krivak-class warships that were re-christened Talwar-class. Admiral Arun Prakash was in Moscow last month to take a look at the progress made on the negotiations being made for the purchase. This was important as India wants to install the nuclear warhead capable supersonic Brahmos missiles on these frigates. Having purchased the three frigates earlier, India had the option open for purchasing three more warships. Mr Mukherjee said the CCS had also approved earmarking of another Rs 400 crore for "certain other equipment" for these stealth warships. This money would be of another Rs 400 crore for "certain other equipment" for these stealth warships. This money would be used to fit the frigates with Brahmos missiles.

The Pioneer, 10 July 2006

### **Thales UK offers to sell sub-systems (PTI)**

Glasgow: British defence majors are ready to export frontline weapons technology to India and Thales UK has even offered to sell some critical sub-systems for New Delhi's top secret nuclear submarine project. "Here we have developed a non-hull penetrating technology to remove cumbersome periscopes from submarines. And we are ready to offer this technology for India's upgraded Kilo class submarines and its Advanced Technology Vehicle (ATV)," Peter McBride, Director Naval exports of the company, said. Thales is making these non-penetrating hull masts here and McBride said these new systems comprised the futuristic submarine combat management area. He said these hulls were now being installed in the US navy's Virginia class submarines and also being used for trials on French nuclear submarine. "These new hulls give the submarines minimum exposure above water and also long-range engagement capability. They can be fitted in submarines with displacements ranging from 50 to 16,000 tonnes," he said.

The Pioneer, 19 July 2006

### **Navy diverts ships for possible evacuation from Lebanon**

The Indian Navy has stationed four ships off the Lebanon coast in the Mediterranean Sea to carry out possible evacuation of more than 12,000 Indian nationals who may become possible targets of the Israel-Hizbullah armed

face-off in southern Lebanon. The four ships were returning home after an exercise in the Mediterranean when they were directed to move towards Lebanon to help in the evacuation, if needed, officials said here on Tuesday. They also said the details of the evacuation would be worked out by the Ministry of External Affairs. The officials said the four ships have a capacity to carry 800 to 1,000 in one trip and these ships include guided missile destroyer INS Mumbai, two guided missile frigates Brahmaputra and Betwa and auxiliary fleet tanker INS Shakti.

HindustanTimes, 21 July 2006

### **India, Russia to make 1,000 BrahMos missiles (PTI)**

Bangalore, July 21, 2006: India and Russia intend to make 1,000 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles over the next 10 years through their joint venture company, with nearly 50 per cent of them expected to be sold in third countries, defence sources said on Friday. "We already have a capacity to produce 100 missiles a year. One thousand missiles in 10 years is a reasonable target. Nearly 50 per cent will go to exports," a source said. India and Russia have so far invested \$300 million in BrahMos Aerospace, which was established to design, develop, produce and market the missile by using the technological skills and capabilities of both countries. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had earlier announced that BrahMos (named after the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers) had been inducted into the Indian Navy. BrahMos Aerospace CEO A Sivathanu Pillai said that the missile's land-based version is expected to be inducted into the Army in 2007.

The Pioneer, 23 July 2006

### **Navy evacuates 440 Indians from Lebanon**

New Delhi: The Indian Navy on Sunday brought out 440 Indians from Beirut and the warship carrying the evacuees would reach Larnaca, Cyprus, early on Monday morning. The evacuees would then be flown to India by Air India aeroplanes, Naval spokesman Captain Vinay Garg said here on Sunday. The Air India was operating special flights to Cyprus to bring back its citizens. Giving details of the ongoing "Operation Sukoon" to bring out stranded Indians in the war-ravaged Lebanon, he said INS Mumbai, which ferried more than 600 people on Friday last, returned from Larnaca to Beirut on Sunday morning. The ship then moved for Cyprus in the afternoon after picking up 440 people even as another warship INS Brahmaputra berthed in Beirut harbour on Sunday, the spokesman said.

The Hindu, 28 July 2006

### **BrahMos delivered to Navy: Will be integrated with naval warships**

Visakapatnam: Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was delivered to the Navy here on Thursday. The event was celebrated at INS Kalinga on Visakhapatnam-Bhimunipatnam beach road. A. Sivathanu Pillai, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited; Vice-Admiral Sureesh Mehta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command; Rear Admiral (retired) S. Mohapatra, in charge of BrahMos missile delivery; and V. Bhujanga Rao, Director, Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) were among those present. A top source in BrahMos Aerospace told The Hindu that for the first time, the missile, mostly produced indigenously in Hyderabad, has several unique features.