

The Times of India, 4 July 2007

Is Nimitz carrying nuclear weapons?

ON BOARD USS NIMITZ: As this nuclear-powered US warship arrives near Chennai surrounded by controversy, its top officials have refused to confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons on board while allaying concerns about radiation hazards. "We can neither confirm nor deny the presence of weapons on board the ship. The general US policy is that we can neither confirm nor deny the presence of weapons on board the ship. We do not routinely deploy nuclear weapons on any of our ships, attack submarines or aircraft", Rear Admiral John Terence Blake, commander of the carrier strike group 11 of USS Nimitz, told a handful of reporters on board one of the biggest aircraft carriers in the world. Captain Michael Manazir, the commanding officer of the Nimitz, toed the same line, saying, we can't confirm the presence or absence of nuclear weapons on board.

Times of India, 11 July 2007

Now, Australia wants to upgrade defence ties

suspicious of India's growing military prowess, especially the expanding role of its Navy in the Indian Ocean region, Australia now wants to upgrade strategic and defence ties with India. The emerging contours of this yet fledgling defence cooperation will be discussed when Australian defence minister Brendan Nelson comes visiting on Wednesday, with talks scheduled with his Indian counterpart A K Antony, external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee and the three service chiefs, among others.

The Hindu, 12 July 2007

First joint naval exercise with Australia in September

NEW DELHI: Australia has said that its recent quadrilateral dialogue with India, the U.S. and Japan does not concern military and security issues but is confined to the economic, trade and cultural spheres. Australia also reiterated its policy of not selling uranium to countries that have not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) but said it was supportive of and comfortable with the ongoing civil nuclear dialogue between the U.S. and India and the latter's willingness to separate its military and civilian reactors.

Business Standard, 12 July 2007

Nimitz signals a new era in our ties

wish to thank the people of Chennai, the Indian Navy, the government of Tamil Nadu, and the Chennai port trust for giving the two US Navy vessels USS Nimitz, USS Pinckney and their crew a warm welcome to Chennai. During my July 2 visit I saw first-hand that people had gone to great lengths to make this port call safe, informative and enjoyable. We are grateful for their efforts. Very few of the sailors had ever been to India before, and they were delighted to have this opportunity to meet the people, sample the food, and learn about the culture of south India. I would also like to commend Admiral Blake and the Nimitz-crew for their contribution to US-India relations, by hosting numerous Indian guests on-board the Nimitz and participating in several community relations events.

The Hindu, 13 July 2007

Biggest joint naval exercise in Bay of Bengal in September

NEW DELHI: India will hold its biggest naval exercise with the U.S., Japan, Australia and Singapore in the Bay of Bengal in September this year, senior security officials here said on Wednesday. The decision comes amid China's concerns over last month's meeting between India, the U.S., Japan and Australia and assurances by India and Australia that security and defence issues did not form part of the meeting's agenda. The concern over encirclement of China was strong enough for Beijing to issue a demarche to all four nations, demanding the purpose behind the meeting. A demarche is a formal diplomatic communication from a country seeking information from another.

The Hindu, 14 July 2007

Navy prefers Net-Centric Operations project of CAIR for assessing data flow

Bangalore: With networking of weapons systems and sharing of battlefield data the only means of ensuring seamless information flow and improved joint command and control, the Indian Navy appears very interested in the Net-Centric Operations (NCO) project of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR). The proposed indigenous NCO project from the Bangalore-based Defence laboratory will not only permit shared situational awareness among the various naval units, but also filter and process data flowing from the various thermal, visual, acoustic and radio frequency sensors from the same battlefield, allowing the battlefield commander to take speedy and effective decisions. The CAIR laboratory, which was one of the ports of call during the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta's recent visit to Bangalore after assuming charge, demonstrated the capabilities of such an in-house NCO command and control system.

The Hindu, 17 July 2007

Vaiko slams Centre's approach to Lankan ethnic problem

Chennai, July. 16 (PTI): Charging the UPA Government at the Centre with "bitter betrayal" of Sri Lankan Tamils, MDMK chief Vaiko today demanded cancellation of its reported decision to co-ordinate communication networks between the naval forces of the two countries. In a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Vaiko said "The approach, attitude and activities of the Indian Government regarding the Tamil ethnic problem of Sri Lanka deeply wounded the sentiments of Tamils and I would accuse the UPA Government of committing a bitter betrayal of Tamils." He said it was an "undeniable established fact" that hundreds of fishermen from Tamil Nadu had been killed in attacks by the Lankan Navy. "The more shocking fact is that Indian Navy never tried to protect Indian fishermen from Sri Lankan Navy attacks," he alleged. The Sri Lankan Government was repeatedly saying that joint patrolling in the Palk Straits with Indian Navy would be accomplished, which he claimed was a "notorious plot to engage the Indian Navy against the Eelam Tamils."

Press Information Bureau, 20 July 2007

INAUGURAL ADDRESS ON NAVAL ARMAMENTS: NAVARMS-2007

Following is the text of the Defence Minister Shri A K Antony's address at International Seminar and Exhibition on Naval Armaments held here today. ❖??I am happy to be amidst you to inaugurate this Seminar on naval armaments. Its timing is of particular relevance, in view of the ever increasing importance of maritime security, coupled with advances in armament technology and changing strategic calculus, it is imperative for us

to have a lean and thin, yet a modern and well-equipped Navy. I am sure the Seminar will evolve a comprehensive strategy to deal with all the threats and challenges posed to us in this regard. A nation derives its power from a variety of factors - its geographical position, its economic strength, its administration or political system, its military and its people. While many strategists have defined and identified these parameters separately, they are closely interlinked. India is presently undergoing a major transformation and emerging as a formidable power - both in economic and political sense of the term.

Dawn, 20 July 2007

Fisherman killed in Indian Navy firing

THATTA, July 19: A fisherman was killed and two of his colleagues were injured when Indian Navy personnel allegedly attacked them after trespassing into Pakistani territorial waters in the Sir Creek area on Wednesday. The incident took place about 26 nautical miles from Jati taluka. The deceased was identified as Ali Ahmed, son of Soomar Katiar. Mohammad Katiar, the helmsman of the Al-Haq fishing vessel and fishermen Umer, Suleman and Akbar told Dawn that about two dozen fishermen and crew in two motor vessels ♦?? Al-Ramzan and Al-Haq ♦?? were fishing in the Sir Creek when six high-speed motorboats carrying Indian Naval task force (INTF) personnel approached there and opened fire on them. Ali Ahmed, a fisherman boarding motor vessel Al-Haq, raised his hands requesting INTF personnel to stop firing but was shot dead and fell into the water. Two of his colleagues, whose names could not be ascertained, sustained pellet wounds.

Hindustan Times, 23 July 2007

Private sector should build shipyards: navy chief

Aiming to make the Indian Navy a "builder's navy" through indigenisation, its chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta has sought initiatives by the private sector to construct shipyards and other facilities to enhance domestic shipbuilding capabilities. "In so far as the navy is concerned, it is an issue that we are pushing extensively. It is not merely warship-building that needs acceleration, but shipbuilding as a whole," he said.

Hindustan Times, 23 July 2007

L&T plans to build submarines for Navy

Larsen and Toubro, the diversified engineering conglomerate, is planning to build submarines as part of its defence projects venture. The company is planning to demerge the defence division into a separate entity. Sources close to the development said L&T is in talks with a couple of foreign firms to develop required expertise to participate in the Indian Navy ♦??s prestigious Project 75 and 76 to make underwater vessels.

Executive Intelligence Review, 27 July 2007

The Geostrategic Import of the Coming Bay of Bengal Naval Exercise

Come September, India will host a major naval exercise in the strategic Bay of Bengal, located between mainland India, Bangladesh, and the western shores of Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia, Indian Defense Ministry officials report. The war maneuver will bring together naval forces from four other countries: Australia, Japan, Singapore, and

the United States. The 20 warships that will participate include two nuclear aircraft carriers from the United States, the USS Nimitz and USS Kitty Hawk, and one non-nuclear carrier from India, the INS Viraat. In addition, the five-day maneuvers will also see in action shore-based Jaguar deep penetration strike aircraft of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy's Sea Harrier jets and Sea King helicopters from the INS Viraat. Indian defense officials point out that the location of the planned naval exercise has been chosen to maintain distance from the arc of the Pacific Ocean, and skirts the borders of Russia and China where such moves could arouse Beijing's sensitivities.

The Times of India, 31 July 2007

India's strategic thinking needs radical recast: IAF chief

PUNE: Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal F H Major has suggested a radical change in India's strategic thinking in view of enlarged strategic dimensions that would also ensure an accentuated role of aerospace power in the new security arena. "The redrawn strategic boundaries of resurgent India extending from the Persian Gulf to the Straits of Malacca and from the Central Asian Republics to the Indian Ocean point towards the need to recast our strategic thinking," he said.