

The Hindu, 2 June 2006

### **India, U.K. to hold more naval exercises**

Alappuzha: The strategic relationship between the navies of India and the United Kingdom will acquire a new dimension in the coming days with the two navies deciding to conduct more joint exercises and mutual visit of warships in the coming days, chief of the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom Admiral Sir Jonathon Band has said. Speaking to reporters onboard a houseboat at Alappuzha, Sir Band said the recently concluded joint exercise by Indian and British navies at Mumbai was a great success. He said he had held discussions on strengthening and extending the cooperation between the two navies with the top brass of the Indian Navy and the discussions were a great success. Sir Band said both the navies needed to hold joint operations in the future to give more strategic depth to the relationship. Lauding the modernisation programme of the Indian Navy, he said the Indian Navy needed such a programme in view of the country emerging as a powerful nation. The Indian Navy is a very professional one and the acquisition of aircraft carriers would definitely strengthen the striking capacity of the Indian Navy, Sir Band said.

The Hindu, 8 June 2006

### **Navy completes talks for stealth frigates**

New Delhi: The Navy has completed price negotiations for a major defence import deal aimed at checking the erosion of its force levels. Having wrapped up the deal for approximately Rs. 3,000 crore, the proposal for purchasing three `Talwar' class stealth frigates from Russia would be put up to the Cabinet Committee on Security for approval. The Navy already has three such frigates that were inducted in 2003 and 2004. They were the first to have some stealth technology to enable detection from enemy radars. The second lot of Talwar class frigates too will have some firsts to its credit. These will be the first brand new platforms to be fitted with the India-Russian cruise missile Brahmos. As was the case with the three commissioned Talwar class frigates, the new ones will also have Indian components.

The Hindu, 8 June 2006

### **India, Malaysia discuss Malacca Straits**

New Delhi: On a day when 21 navies joined forces to locate and destroy mines off the Malaysian coast, Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak of that country and Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee discussed here the issue of sanitising the narrow channel in the region through which a large chunk of world trade passes. Mr. Razak, who also holds the Defence portfolio, and Mr. Mukherjee discussed `compulsory pilotage' of the Malacca Straits, with India backing the proposal mooted by Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. The narrow channel is an inviting target for terrorists interested in disrupting world trade in general and oil supplies to energy-hungry countries of southeast and east Asia.

The Hindu, 19 June 2006

### **"Gorshkov to be given on schedule"**

MOSCOW: The upgradation of the Gorshkov aircraft carrier is proceeding on schedule and the ship along with deck-based MiG-29K aircraft would be delivered to the Indian Navy in autumn 2008, Defence Secretary Shakhur Dutt said here on Friday. Describing the Gorshkov refit as "a very unique project," Mr. Dutt said it would be a "completely new ship with a new philosophy" having new design and capabilities. Originally designed as a heavy aircraft cruiser for vertical short takeoff and landing, Gorshkov is having its flight deck extended for operating both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. The official told The Hindu that Gorshkov would have some Indian-built equipment, including electronic and electrical systems. During his five-day visit to Russia from June 13 to 18, the Defence Secretary reviewed progress on Gorshkov and held talks with top Russian defence officials. He visited the Nevsky Design Bureau in St. Petersburg, which has redesigned Gorshkov, and the Zvezdochka shipyard in Severodvinsk where Gorshkov is undergoing refit.

The Hindu, 22 June 2006

### **India, Russia to hold naval war games in early 2007**

Moscow, June 21: India and Russia will hold naval war games next year, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Arun Prakash said here. "INDRA-2007," to be held off Russia's Pacific coast in early 2007, will be the third such exercise since 2003. The first one was held in Russia...Admiral Prakash, who arrived here on June 19, met Russia's Chief of Staff General Yuri Baluyevsky, Navy chief Admiral Vladimir Masorin and Air Chief-General Vladimir Mikhailov on Tuesday...

The Indian Express, 23 June 2006

**No room for mistakes in a nuclear Navy**

New Delhi, June 22: With only two years to go before the Indian Navy is to transform itself to a blue water Navy—an elite club comprising mostly of the P5 countries—a string of incidents give clue to how unprepared the force is for it... Coming at a time when the Naval Headquarters is already under a cloud for leakage of classified information from the Directorate of Naval Operations, the accidents do not bode well for the force that prides itself on its strategic long legs—stretching all the way from Gulf of Eden to Malacca Straits...

The Statesman, 26 June 2006

**'Naval leak, Scorpene deal linked'**

NEW DELHI, June 25: Senior BJP leader Mr LK Advani today said that the naval war room leak case was linked to the Scorpene submarine deal, and asked the government to explain the 'delay' in ordering CBI raids in connection with the case. Speaking at a party function on the 31st anniversary of Emergency, he said: "We have been continuously saying that the naval war room leak case and the Scorpene deal are interconnected but the government had maintained that there was no foul play. If that was the case why did the CBI conduct raids a few days ago at places including those of people whose names have also been linked to the scam?" The BJP observed the Emergency's anniversary as 'Save Democracy Day'. On Friday last, the CBI conducted searches at 19 places in four cities against retired and serving defence officials, including businessman Mr Abhishek Verma and a chartered accountant in connection with the naval war room leak case.