

The Hindu, 1 March 2007

### **Navy helicopter "force-lands"**

MUMBAI: A Sea King helicopter of the Navy "force-landed" on the sea near naval air station INS Kunjali here on Wednesday but its four-member crew came out safely. Defence spokesman Captain Abhay Lambhate told The Hindu that the helicopter was on a routine training mission and was returning to the Kunjali. The Navy has ordered a board of inquiry into the incident. Sources said engine failure seemed to be the reason for the force landing. Later, a crane based at the Kunjali salvaged the damaged aircraft. The Sea King is an anti-submarine warfare helicopter, and can be armed with torpedoes. All Indian frigates and destroyers are capable of operating Sea Kings. The helicopters report the location of submarines to the mother ship for tracking and attacking it.

Dawn, 1 March 2007

### **Big rise in Indian defence budget**

NEW DELHI, Feb 28: Indian Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Wednesday announced a 6.8 trillion rupee federal budget for fiscal 2007-08 (April-March) with defence allocation taking up 14 per cent of the total outlay, which itself is 2.4 per cent of the GDP. Mr Chidambaram said 43 per cent of the proposed defence expenditure was earmarked for equipment purchase. Any other additional requirement for the security of the nation will be provided, he told a cheering Lok Sabha, which buried its noisy differences to hear the speech with rapt attention. The actual quantum of the increase in the defence outlay can be seen in two ways in percentage terms over last year's allocation. While defence spending would go up to Rs960 billion from the previous year's budgeted allocation of Rs890 billion, the documents reveal that what was actually spent was just Rs860 billion. Therefore, in real terms, the increase in the current budget is 11.6 per cent or Rs100 billion. Defence Minister A. K. Antony welcomed Mr Chidambaram's statement. With this commitment by the finance minister, we are satisfied, he told a TV channel.

Hindustan Times, 3 March 2007

### **Fourth Seaking lost by Navy since 1988**

The British Seaking MK 42 Bravo, the Indian Navy lost allegedly due to a technical snag near INS Kunjali (II) in Colaba on Wednesday, was the fourth such helicopter lost by the services since its induction in 1988. This leaves the Indian Navy with 16 Seaking MK 42 B's of the 20 which were inducted between April 1988 and 1992. The MK 42 B's, which was chosen by Indian Navy ahead of the French Super Puma, were inducted to serve the Godavari class frigates and the aircraft carriers Vikrant and Viraat.

Financial Express, 5 March 2007

### **Honour on high waters**

The raison-d'etre for the armed forces world over is to remain at all times in a state of optimum preparedness waiting for the D-day. As far as the Indian navy is concerned, the closest that it found itself to a war was during the Indo-Pak conflict of 1965. It was a decision by the Indian government to restrict the movement of Indian naval ships within north of parallel of Porbandar which kept the navy away from action causing a fair amount of dismay to the then navy chief. During the 1971 conflict Indian navy formed an

integral part of the nation's war effort against Pakistan. Pakistan navy's underwater capabilities reinforced by the Daphne class submarines acquired from France, and also a number of midget submarines and chariots in its arsenal, posed the toughest challenge to Indian navy.

New Indian Express, 6 March 2007

### **INS Ranvijay receives Eastern Fleet Trophy**

VISAKHAPATNAM: Indian Navy's frontline destroyer INS Ranvijay, commanded by Captain BS Parhar, has emerged as the winner of the most coveted 'best ship of the Eastern Fleet Trophy'. The annual Eastern Fleet proficiency awards function was held at the Naval Base today. The ceremony highlighted the operational performance and standards achieved by the Eastern Naval ships during 2006-07. INS Savitri, commanded by Commander Ravi Ahluwalia, was awarded the most spirited ship trophy. ENC Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Vice-Admiral Arun Kumar Singh gave away the proficiency trophies to the fleet ships. On the occasion, Singh said the Eastern Fleet has slowly and steadily grown into a large fleet during the past 36 years. He recalled various operational achievements of the fleet.

Payvand's Iran News, 7 March 2007

### **Iranian navy chief meets his Indian counterpart**

New Delhi, Mar 5, IRNA - Rear Admiral Sajjad Kouchaki the Naval Chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran met his Indian counterpart Admiral Sureesh Mehta in New Delhi on Monday. Admiral Mehta welcomed the visiting guest at his office's forecourt. Rear Admiral Kouchaki also reviewed the guard of honor presented by the naval force. The two sides discussed the bilateral, regional and international security issues. The Iranian Navy Chief who arrived in New Delhi Sunday evening for a six day official visit to India, laid a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate memorial here today morning. The Amar Jawan Jyoti is an eternal flame lighting in the memories of those Indian armed forces personnel who have laid down their lives in operations since the First World War. Paying respect to them, the visiting Naval Chief also signed in the memorial book.

The Hindu, 7 March 2007

### **India, Japan, U.S. to hold Pacific naval exercise**

SINGAPORE: India is likely to team up with Japan and the United States to hold a "goodwill" naval exercise, off the Japanese coast along the Pacific Ocean next month. According to sources familiar with the planned mission, the exercise will take place off the Yokosuka naval base on April 16. No formal announcement has yet been made by the three governments. The exercise is scheduled to follow a "goodwill visit" to Japan by some top-line Indian Navy vessels from April 12. This is said to be the first time that India will participate in such a trilateral event involving Japan and the U.S., both of whom are long-time allies. It has held exercises separately with these countries.

Islamic Republic News Agency, 7 March 2007

### **Iranian navy commander lays wreath at Indian Gate Memorial**

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Sajjad Kouchaki on Monday laid a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at Indian Gate Memorial. The Amar Jawan Jyoti is an eternal flame

lighting in the memories of those Indian armed forces personnel who have laid down their lives in operations since the First World War. The Iranian Naval Chief also paying the respect to them signed in the memorial book. Rear Admiral Sajjad Kouchaki expressed hope while talking to IRNA that his talks with Indian Defense Minister and top brass of military including chiefs of army, navy and air force as well as his trip to Ports and other Navy facilities in the eastern and western India will help in strengthening the ties between the naval forces of two countries.

The Times of India, 9 March 2007

### **Navy in trilateral war games**

NEW DELHI: The Indian, Japanese and US navies will conduct, for the first time ever, trilateral exercises in the Pacific Ocean in April. Apart from displaying India's naval ambitions, it will be a first in many ways. Most important, it will be the first time after the 2004 tsunami that the three countries will be seen courting each other. Incidentally, foreign minister Pranab Mukherjee will visit Japan from March 20-23 to give greater teeth to a strategic relationship that gives both India and Japan crucial wiggle room in foreign policy.

Navhind Times, 9 March 2007

### **PM asks navy to give 8 acre Dabolim airport land to Goa**

Panaji, March 8 The Chief Minister, Mr Pratapsingh Rane today announced that the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh has issued an order directing the naval authorities to hand about eight acres of land at the Dabolim airport to the state government for development of the airport. Mr Rane said the land transfer could take place within the next two days and the government would then expand the airport by constructing the planned facilities including a new apron there. Mr Rane made the announcement by interrupting the Mandrem BJP MLA, Mr Laxmikant Parsekar, who was speaking on the vote of accounts to criticise Mr Rane's budget announced yesterday and also the performance of the Congress government in Goa. Mr Rane said that while the navy will hand over the land at Dabolim, in compensation, the navy will be given land at Bombay by the Airport Authorities of India. At another point, Mr Rane also assured Mr Parsekar that the proposed Mopa airport at Pernem would also become a reality.

Hindustan Times, 10 March 2007

### **Kochi arms haul tip of iceberg: Navy chief**

The seizure of a huge arms cache from a Karachi-bound ship in Kerala last week was "only the tip of the iceberg" and could be part of a bigger terrorist operation, the Indian Navy chief said on Tuesday. "The recent discovery of rifles in a shipment of furniture cartons at Kochi on board a Karachi-bound ship and originating from Dubai is perhaps only the tip of the iceberg as far as these nefarious activities are concerned," Admiral Sureesh Mehta told the closing session of an international seminar on maritime trade and security here.

Fars News Agency, 11 March 2007

### **Iranian Navy Commander Meets Indian Army Counterparts**

TEHRAN (Fars News Agency)- Visiting commander of the Iranian navy Rear Admiral

Sajjad Kouchaki met with the high-ranking officials of the Indian army on Thursday. During the visit to India, Admiral Kouchaki and his entourage visited different military and naval bases and centers of the Indian army, including those located in New Delhi, Bombay and Vishkapatnam on the coasts of the Indian Ocean, and attended talks with India's army, naval and air force commanders.

The Hindu, 11 March 2007

### **One fisherman killed, four injured in Sri Lankan firing**

CHENNAI/RAMANATHAPURAM: One Indian fisherman was killed and four others were injured off Katchatheevu on Saturday when a Sri Lankan Naval vessel fired at them. The incident took place around 4 a.m. when the five-member group from Pamban were in the Sri Lankan waters in their country boat. Christopher (35) died immediately after receiving a bullet injury in his right thigh. Vilver, Soosai, Dhasan and Sahayaraj were injured. "When a fast craft of the Sri Lankan Navy approached us, we pleaded with them not to open fire. They did not listen to us and opened fire indiscriminately," said an injured fisherman, who is declared out of danger.

Economic Times, 12 March 2007

### **India to upgrade MiG-29 jets to boost fighter fleet**

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force has inked a major deal to upgrade its 78 MiG-29 fighters as part of urgent measures to compensate for a rapid depletion of its fighter fleet. Under the \$800-million deal, signed recently with a consortium of Russia's state-owned Rosboronexport and United Aircraft Corporation, the IAF's fleet of three squadrons of MiG-29 air superiority jets will get their service life extended from 25 to 40 years. The IAF, which is currently phasing out older MiG-21 and MiG-23 jets, has seen its squadron strength plunging to an all-time low of 29 squadrons, as against its sanctioned strength of 45 squadrons.

The Times of India, 18 March 2007

### **INS Viraat not to anchor before 2012**

NEW DELHI: It's two acres of sovereign Indian territory cruising on the high seas. Though ageing and creaking, it's the only one of its kind the country has as of now to project power much beyond its shores. India's solitary aircraft carrier, the 28,000-tonne INS Viraat, is central to the Navy's concept of operations both in war and peace, with its complement of Sea Harrier jump-jets and helicopters.

Dawn, 20 March 2007

### **Indian Navy detains 13 Pakistani fishermen**

Indian Navy is reported to have arrested 13 fishermen in Sir Creek near taluka Jati on Sunday night. According to reports reaching here, two boats -- Al Yousuf and Al Majeed -- with 13 fishermen aboard were fishing in the area of Sir Creek when Indian Navy vessels resorted to indiscriminate firing and Indian personnel took the fishermen into custody besides seizing their boats.

Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka, 20 March 2007

### **Indian Defence Minister reiterates that joint patrols by Indian and Sri Lanka navies**

### **under consideration**

The Indian Defense Minister A. K. Antony reiterated that the Indian government is still considering the introduction of India and Sri Lanka Navies to do joint patrols in the sea between both countries. The Indian Defense Minister after a visit to India's Southern Naval Command at Kochi in the State of Kerala said, "Joint patrolling by the navies of India and Sri Lanka has been suggested, to keep trouble-makers at bay." It is an obvious reference to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam(LTTE) who have been allegedly using the sea between both countries as a passage for gun and drug running. Indian intelligence services have alarmed that the Tamil militants could be supplying guns not only for their armouries but also for some Indian insurgent groups for money or in kind.

Pravda, Russia, 23 March 2007

### **Russia and India to increase production of BrahMos PJ-10 supersonic cruise missiles**

Indian-Russian Joint Venture "Brahmos Aerospace" plans to increase the production of the supersonic cruise missiles PJ-10 by 300 percents within 2 years, according to the executive director of the company Sivathanu Pillai. The plans are explained first of all by the increased demand from the Indian MoD. In the past half a year Brahmos has regained the status of one of the most often mentioned subject in the military news reels, at least in the context of cruise missiles.

Indian Express, 23 March 2007

### **Indian Navy to hold first ever aerobatic display in city**

Kolkata, March 22: Come Saturday and the residents of Kolkata will be witness to daredevil displays by the flying officers of the Indian Navy. A specialised team of the Navy will present an aerobatic display. The Sagar Pawan team of naval aviation will display aerial manoeuvres, search and rescue operations by Chetak helicopters, high speed runs by a fast attack craft and also performances by the Indian Naval Band.

The Hindu, 25 March 2007

### **Singapore, Indian navies hold bilateral exercise**

Singapore and Indian navies kicked-off their annual maritime bilateral exercise in the South China Sea on Friday. According to a statement by the Singapore Defense Ministry, the Singapore Navy is deploying two missile corvettes, a missile gunboat, an anti-submarine patrol vessel and a submarine for the six-day exercise. The Indian Navy is participating in the exercise with two destroyers and a corvette. Both navies are also deploying maritime patrol aircraft for the exercise. The two sides have been conducting maritime bilateral exercises annually since 1999.

The Times of India, 26 March 2007

### **INS Viraat to be 50 in '09**

CHANDIGARH: On May 12 this year, India's solitary aircraft carrier, INS Viraat, would have completed 20 years of its service with the Indian Navy. Two years from now (on November 18, 2009, to be precise), the Centaur Class ship would be ready to celebrate the golden jubilee of its naval service. The Indian Navy had acquired the 28,000-tonne aircraft carrier in 1987 from the British Royal Navy after it had served as HMS Hermes

for nearly 28 years and re-christened it as INS Viraat.

The Times of India, 28 March 2007

### **Indian Navy steps up vigil in Palk Strait**

NEW DELHI: "They are at the most capable of dumping some rudimentary bombs from the air," said a senior IAF officer. But what is of some concern here is that an aircraft in the hands of a terrorist group can be used as a missile against high-value targets as was shown by the 9/11 strikes in US in 2001. "An aircraft loaded with explosives and being flown by a kamikaze pilot can be very deadly," said the officer.

The Times of India, 30 March 2007

### **Navy uses wargames to win allies**

NEW DELHI: The fine art of counter-balancing should be learnt from the Navy. If it is going to undertake combat manoeuvres in a trilateral exercise with the US and Japan, it will also engage in an "interaction" with Chinese navy around the same time to avoid ruffling its ticklish feathers. Similarly, it will strike a fine balance between the two erstwhile Cold War allies, US and Russia, both of whom are desperate to sell arms to India, by holding separate wargames with them. That's not all.

Financial Express, 31 March 2007

### **India, Sri Lanka conduct joint sea patrol to tackle threats**

NEW DELHI, MAR 29 : The Indian Navy and the Coast Guard have stepped up patrolling in Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar after the recent air attacks by the LTTE. Briefing mediapersons on the current situation in Sri Lanka, rear admiral Pradeep Chuahan, assistant chief of naval staff at the naval headquarters said, India and Sri Lanka were conducting coordinated patrols to cope with emerging threats. Explaining this, the naval official said it was not a joint or combined operation but a coordinated exercise. The Sri Lankan Navy patrols its own waters while the Coast Guard patrols the Indian shores. The results have been pretty encouraging," he said.

The Hindu, 31 March 2007

### **Navy decides to upgrade its detachment at Rameswaram**

RAMANATHAPURAM: The Indian Navy has decided to upgrade its detachment at Rameswaram, which is very close to Sri Lanka. Speaking to The Hindu here on Thursday, Commodore Phillip Van Haltren, Naval Officer in-charge, Tamil Nadu, said the decision was to strengthen infrastructure and augment resources for beefing up security in the region. All necessary facilities would be set up to face "new developments" in the region.

The Hindu, 31 March 2007

### **Navy Chief won't rule out LTTE role in firing on Indian fishermen**

NEW DELHI: The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sureesh Mehta, did not rule out the involvement of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the recent incidents of firing on Indian fishermen in order to create a misunderstanding between the two countries. Basing his views on assurances given by the Sri Lankan Naval chief, Admiral Mehta said the purpose could be to create a rift between the two nations.