

The Hindu, 6 March 2008

BrahMos test-fired

CHENNAI: BrahMos, the supersonic cruise missile, on Wednesday lifted off from the Indian Naval ship 'Rajput' speeding in the Bay of Bengal and destroyed a target on an uninhabited island in the Nicobar group of islands situated in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago

The Hindu, 6 March 2008

"BrahMos to be fired from submarine soon"

CHENNAI: BrahMos, the supersonic cruise missile and its attendant systems, will be installed in a vertical launch mode on board the Indian Naval vessel "Ranvir" according to informed sources. The missile system would also be installed on 15-Alpha type destroyers and Talwar class frigates. BrahMos already been inducted into the Navy and the Army

The Times of India, 7 March 2008

156 HIV+ jawans sent home between 2004-06

PUNE: The armed forces have invalided 156 personnel with full-blown HIV-AIDS between 2004 and 2006. Although figures for 2007 are yet to be compiled, senior officers at Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) hope the number will reduce. Of the 156 personnel, 141 were from the army, nine from the navy and six from the air force

The Asian Age, 11 March 2008

Navy: We need more Baraks

Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Monday said India needs more Barak surface-to-air missiles in due course of time but that the procurements were "being held up at this point in time". Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function to mark the flagging-off of a naval expedition to the North Pole, Admiral Mehta said, "India has enough Barak missiles for now. But we need more in the normal course of procurement and that is what is being held up now"

The Asian Age, 12 March 2008

Antony warns against sea terror attacks

Defence minister A.K. Antony on Tuesday warned against dangers of terror attacks from the sea in the region and called for greater international vigil to ward off these threats. The region already faced a menace from sea pirates and the terror threat had dimensions of bringing in non-state actors as well as agents of transitional crimes, Mr Antony said while inaugurating an "international maritime search and rescue conference (IMSARCON) 2008" here.

The Asian Age, 14 March 2008

Navy Chief off to Russia

Naval Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta left on Thursday for an official visit to Russia where he will discuss aspects relating to the Gorshkov deal. It may be recalled that defence secretary Vijay Singh had also recently led an Indian delegation to Russia to inspect the aircraft carrier Gorshkov and try to break the deadlock over its delivery to India.

The Times of India, 15 March 2008

US-made Jalashwa a lemon: CAG

Has the US sold a lemon to India in the shape of the huge amphibious transport warship USS Trenton ? Yes, says the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) about the 37-year-old ship rechristened INS Jalashwa by Indian navy. Being the first-ever American warship to be inducted by the navy, INS Jalashwa has been brandished as a visible symbol of the rapidly-expanding strategic embrace between India and US ever since it was bought for \$50.63 million in 2006-2007. The latest CAG report, tabled in Parliament on Friday, however, has rapped the UPA government for buying the "ageing ship" in a "hasty manner" without "proper physical assessment" and technical evaluation of its sea-worthiness

The Hindu, 16 March 2008

Order probe into purchase of USS Trenton: CPI(M)

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Saturday demanded a probe into the "dubious" purchase of a 36-year-old U.S. naval warship, which the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) said was made without physical assessment. In a statement here, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau also wanted the government to come out with a statement in Parliament and give an assurance that "such dubious defence purchases will not be resorted to in future." The CAG report tabled in Parliament severely censured the Navy for buying USS Trenton, now named INS Jalashwa

The Asian Age, 16 March 2008

Editorial: Choppy waters

The Comptroller and Auditor General's report highlighted irregularities in the purchase of an ageing 36-year old warship, USS Trenton, with four to five years of active life, for \$50.73 million (around Rs 202 crores) after refurbishment, and the purchase of three Boeing business VIP jets for \$936.93 crores without following due procedure. This reveals what the report calls abuse of financial power and transparency. In the case of the Trenton, rechristened Jalashwa, the report said the Indian Navy was overreliant on information provided by the Americans without a technical audit. Defending the deal, an Indian naval officer is reported to have said that it was a strategic sealift capacity asset deal. The question that arises is, does one build strategic capabilities with a ship that has already done 37 years and has a life of only five more years? Who are we fooling here?

The Asian Age, 22 March 2008

US Navy secy to visit India from March 26

New Delhi: United States Navy secretary Donald C. Winter is scheduled to visit India from March 26, marking yet another high-level interaction between the two countries in the field of defence. The United States secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) is the "civilian head of the department of the Navy" and has the authority "to conduct all the affairs of the department of the Navy, including recruiting, organising, supplying, equipping, training, mobilising, and demobilising"

The Times of India, 24 March 2008

Navy brass under CAG scanner

New Delhi: Top brass in naval headquarters may come under CBI scrutiny for their role in awarding a defence contract, allegedly in violation of laid down norms, to a company floated by an arms dealer who is currently under multi-agency probe, including the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI. The contract relates to supply of simulators, considered important for the training of helicopter pilots and observers, to the navy...

The Indian Express, 28 March 2008

No restrictions on deployment of Jalashwa: Navy

New Delhi: Ridiculing a report by the national auditor that raised doubts over the "restrictive clauses" on the deployment of INS Jalashwa - a former US Navy troop carrier - the Navy has said that the warship can be used in all roles possible and India has written permission from the US for the same. A recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had raised concerns about the sea worthiness of the ship and had said that the end-user agreement with the US has imposed unfair "restrictions on the offensive deployment of the ship"...

The Hindu, 29 March 2008

No strings attached to sale of ship: U.S. official

New Delhi: United States Navy Secretary Donald Winter on Friday denied that the sale of USS Trenton (now INS Jalashwa) to the Indian Navy was accompanied by a ban on its use for offensive operations. While maintaining that the sale of the ship was neither unique nor had terms associated with its transfer, he said the U.S. did not limit the use of warships sold to other countries in support of their national defence objectives. Mr. Winter was speaking to newsmen here on the second day of his visit to India...