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No evil design behind proactive naval exercises: Admiral Mehta (P.S. Suryanarayana)

SINGAPORE: India "requires a strong Navy to ensure peace and stability when the nation's economic strength is growing at the rate at which it is," Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta has said. Outlining the "maritime doctrine," he said India's ongoing "defence diplomacy" of engaging the navies of some major countries in a series of exercises "is not power projection." "It is not as if there is a nexus that is being built up," Admiral Mehta told The Hindu here on Friday, responding to a question about the growing impression that India was moving closer to the United States and Japan in the maritime zone of Greater East Asia. "There is no evil design, in fact, no design" behind India's proactive naval exercises. "We are now an economic power of some relevance," and this should explain the new surge of strategic interest among the major navies towards India....