

The Tribune, 1 November 2005

V. Bharatan is Naval Vice-Chief (TNS)

New Delhi, October 31: Vice-Admiral Venkat Bharatan, an aviator and submariner, took over as the new Vice-Chief of Naval Staff here today. Commissioned into the Navy in 1967, Bharatan, a recipient of Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal, replaces Vice-Admiral Yashwant Prasad who retired today.

The Times of India, 1 November 2005

Navy Pilots head for 'top gun' training in US

New Delhi: The Navy has now sent its first batch of rookie fighter pilots to the US for training on combat maneuvers from aircraft carriers. The aim is to build a pool of pilots to fly MiG-29Ks from Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov, now rechristened INS Vikramaditya, when it's inducted by end of 2008. Under the \$26-million agreement, 32 Indian Navy pilots will undergo the 18-month training programme for carrier-borne operations with the US Navy over a four-year period. "The first four pilots are now in the US after initial training with IAF. The next batch will go after six months", said a senior Navy officer on Sunday.

The Asian Age, 3 November 2005

Scorpene to be ready in 7 years: Navy

Hyderabad, Nov. 2: The Indian Navy will deploy the world's stealthiest killer submarine, the Scorpene, in about seven years. The submarine is being developed jointly with France at the Mazagon docks in Mumbai under technology transfer, said Vice-Admiral Suresh Mehta. The vice-admiral said that the submarines would be armed with EADS SM39 Exocet sub-harpoon anti-ship missiles. It would also be able to use other advanced torpedoes, he said. The Scorpene will have a revolutionary design that reduces sound emissions. This will enable the submarine to strike at long distances without being detected. It has capabilities to strike targets underwater, on the surface and on land. The submarines have an operational cycle of 240 days a year and endurance to carry out 50-day patrol.

The Pioneer, 3 November 2005

Navy to take fleet review in Vizag for the first time (Omer Farooq)

The President's Naval Fleet Review 2006, an impressive ceremony that displayed the prowess of the Indian Navy, will be held for the first time in Vishakhapatnam, the base of the Eastern Naval Command, in February. The three-day-long review will be attended by all the top dignitaries of the country, including the President, the Vice-President, Prime Minister, governors and the chief ministers of several states.

The Indian Express, 9 November 2005

Ins Tarangini arrives after six-and-a-half months voyage (PTI)

Kochi: INS Tarangini, Indian navy's sail training ship, which had set sail from here on April 21 to participate in the tall ships races in Europe, arrived here, on Tuesday, after a six-and-a-half month voyage. The highlight of the trip was participation in the international fleet review organized by Britain's royal navy to commemorate the 200th Bicentenary of the battle of Trafalgar, Ins Tarangini captain commander Mukul Asthana, told media persons here, on Tuesday. "Our aim was to strengthen and renew the ties that India and Indian navy had with foreign countries. I hope we have been very successful in achieving that," he said. "The trip was very fruitful and useful for the purpose it had gone", he said adding the ship had participated in the tall ships races in Europe and called at 16 ports in 13 countries during its voyage. The ship had sailed basically for training 183 cadets. About 13 trainees who were foreigners also sailed on Tarangini, he said.

The New Indian Express, 11 November 2005

Indian Navy looks up to Lanka for coordination

Chennai: Following the successful coordination of the Indian Navy with its Sri Lankan counterpart over the past two months, the country was actively exploring the feasibility of conducting joint patrolling operations on a long-term basis. Interacting with media persons here on Thursday, Vice Admiral Suresh Mehta, who had recently assumed charge as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, said there was a real scope for conducting joint patrolling operations with Sri Lanka in the near future. ' We are planning to launch an awareness programme for our fisherman on territorial issues so that they do not stray into Sri Lankan waters while venturing out for fishing. We are also keen on initiating discussions on patrolling matters with the Sri Lankan Naval authorities,' he said.

The Hindu, 17 November 2005

Navy for posting officer at U.S. Central Command (Sandeep Dikshit)

New Delhi: Despite reservations expressed by Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee, the Navy is discussing the posting of officers at two U.S. global military commands. "That was at another point in time," said a naval officer when asked about Mr. Mukherjee's observation that "there is no question of posting officers at U.S. military commands. We have a defence attache in Washington." Mr. Mukherjee made the remarks soon after his visit to Washington in July this year after the Left parties criticized the signing of a framework for defence cooperation with the U.S. Though the Indo-U.S. Naval Executive Steering Group would discuss the possibility of posting officers at the two U.S. military commands, naval officers pointed out that the final call was with the Government on a number of aspects such as the location of the officers - whether at the U.S. Embassy or at the command headquarters. The postings should ensure faster coordination with the U.S., especially with the joint naval exercises getting bigger and, therefore, more complex with each successive edition.

The Pioneer, 18 November 2005

Marcos and Seal to hold joint exercise

Marcos, the elite commandos of Indian Navy, and Seal, of the US Navy, are likely to hold a joint exercise next year. The Indian Navy and the US Navy would also upgrade the level of joint annual exercises, named Malabar series, in the Indian Ocean. The two-day ninth Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting of India and US navies, which ended here on Thursday, explored the possibility of having an exercise of the commando units next year. The Indian side for the ESG was led by Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral JS Bedi and Vice Admiral Greenert, Commander of the Seventh Fleet of the US Pacific Command, represented his country, a Navy spokesperson said here on Thursday. The marine commandos of India are highly trained and have proven their mettle in the IPKF operations in Sri Lanka and are currently engaged in anti-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir along with the Army.

Force, Volume 3 No 3 November 2005, 21 November 2005

Moving Towards Blue waters: Navy raises the level of its cooperation with foreign navies (Ajit K. Dubey)

The Indian Navy carried out an exercise codenamed INDRA 2005 in the Bay of Bengal from October 10-20. The naval exercise was part of the biennial bilateral exercise between Indian and Russian navies. INDRA 2005 was aimed at enhancing mutual cooperation between the two countries. INDRA 2005 had a considerably wider scope than the last exercise INDRA 2003. The strategic location of the Indian peninsular in the Indian Ocean has also played a great role in increasing navy's interaction with the major and minor navies of the world. The desire of the Indian Navy to dominate the Indian Ocean Region and the recognition of the Indian Navy as one of the stabilizing powers in the region can also be attributed as one of the reasons behind the Indian waters being the hub of international naval exercises. The Indian Navy has been cooperating with various navies at different levels. The level of cooperation of the Indian Navy with the other countries is based on the level of strength of the other navies. The navies with whom the country shares the common security perceptions and who can play a role in the Indian Ocean Region, it carries out exercises that help it to increase interoperability. The interaction with other navies helped immensely during the multinational Tsunami relief operations. Understanding of each other's procedures helped the personnel to coordinate with each other easily. The exercises also focus on carrying out joint operations against terrorist groups.

Force, Volume 3 No 3 November 2005, 22 November 2005

Looking East: India forges closer ties with Japan (Prasan K. Gupta)

Officially, the Indian Navy's (IN) declassified 'Maritime Doctrine', which Navy HQ-now known as Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Navy) - unveiled on 23 June 2004 calls for exhorting power projection and a large extra-territorial role for the navy in an area stretching from the Cape of Good Hope in Southern Africa across the Indian Ocean right up to the Malacca Straits in South East Asia. In reality, however the Navy's power projections ambitions go beyond that in East Asia, with Japan fast emerging as the most valued strategic partner - a fact underpinned by the highly successful three-day (October 4 to 6) visit to Japan of Admiral Arun Prakash, the Chief of the Indian Navy Staff Committee. This was preceded by the visit to India between September 18 and 22 of Gen. Hajime Massaki Chairman of Japan's Joint Staff Council. On 26 May 2004 both countries held their first level discussions on Military-to-military and defence-industrial cooperation under the aegis of an apex Defense Policy Group (DPG) when the then visiting Japanese defence vice-minister Takemasa Moriya, leading a nine-member delegation. Dramatic advances in bilateral defence interaction will from now on extend to all three armed services of both countries. The way is now clear for the IN and MSDF to plan and execute a variety of joint exercises and operations in the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal - these being coordinated by India's tri-services Andaman and Nicobar command. In addition, Indian shipbuilding facilities will service the repair, logistics and replenishment needs of various MSDF units operating in the Middle East and around the South Asian landmass. Also India and Japan will share much more operational information on (including that related to ballistic missile defence) and intelligence, improve doctrines, and conduct exercises in support of joint counter-proliferation and anti-piracy operations.

The Indian express, 24 November 2005

Navy holds joint exercises with French off Gulf of Aden

New Delhi, November 23: In the seventh in the Varuna series of joint exercises and the second this year, ships from Navy's Mumbai-based Western Command are currently engaged in a war game with French vessels off the Gulf of Aden. The Navy had carried out the last exercise with the French off the Kochi coast a few months ago. While the French had brought Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier to Kochi, the Navy has sent INS Viraat, accompanied by destroyer INS Mysore and guided missile frigates INS Talwar and Godavari. The French have brought a LaFayette-class missile frigate, a Jacoubet corvette and a Perle nuclear submarine, apart from shore-based Atlantique maritime surveillance jets and Mirage-2000 fighters. All the ships, except Viraat and Talwar, visited Djibouti from November 19-22. During this exercise, the thrust would be on dissimilar air combat between Sea Harriers and French Mirages, air defence exercises, intermediate and advanced level anti-submarine warfare, maritime interdiction operations and compliant and non-compliant boarding operations.

The Tribune, 28 November 2005

Indian, Chinese warships to conduct drills

New Delhi, November 27: Having successfully completed their first round of exercises in 2003, Indian and Chinese warships will hold another round of rare joint exercises next week in Indian waters, which will also reflect a growing thaw in bilateral military ties. As is the case always in bilateral series of exercises this time round the Chinese ships will be coming to the waters of Kerala for the exercises. The first round of exercises was held off the shores of Shanghai and for this round China will be sending a missile destroyer, Shenzhen, and supply ship Weishanhu. However, it will be the first time that the Chinese forces will join manoeuvres in the Indian territory. "These will be exercises at a very basic level as we still know very little about each other," according to Indian Navy officials.

The Indian Express, 28 November 2005

Chinese Naval ships to reach Kochi today

New Delhi: In a sign of growing relations between the armed forces of India and China, two Chinese warships, including a destroyer, will berth at Kochi port on Monday. The Luhai-class destroyer and the Weishanhu auxiliary tanker will bring Rear Admiral Han Linzhi, deputy commander of the South Sea Fleet (SSF), along with senior officers of the People's Liberation Army. Sun Yuxi, Chinese ambassador to India, will receive the two ships. The Shenzhen, commanded by Captain Zhu Jianda, is a 154-metre-long destroyer with a crew of 544 and is equipped with surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles and carries a Harbin Z9C helicopter on deck. During the ships' stay, there will be exchange of visits between Indian and Chinese Navy personnel to the ships and training schools.

The Tribune, 29 November 2005

Chinese warships arrive for naval exercises

Kochi, November 28: Two Chinese naval warships arrived here today to take part in basic exercises with Indian naval ships. The People's Liberation Army's ships, 'Shenzhen', a Luhai class Destroyer, and 'Weishanhu', a fleet auxiliary ship, were received by the Chief of Staff, Southern Naval Command, and other senior officers of the Command. Rear Admiral Han Linzhi, Deputy Commander of the South Sea Fleet, who is heading the Chinese side, was given a Guard of Honour on arrival at the Southern Naval Command Headquarters. Rear Admiral Han and other senior Chinese officers called on Flag Officer Commander-in-Chief, (Southern Naval Command) S.C. Bangara. About 100 schoolchildren waved flags of the two countries while the Navy Band performed in the background. The Chinese naval personnel also lined up along the ships' upper deck as their naval band played several tunes. 'Shenzhen' fired gun salutes before entering the harbour. The ships, during their four-day stay here, will take part in "basic exercises" alongside the Indian Navy's INS Gomati.