

The Times of India, 1 November 2006

**'Indian Navy needs safer ships'**

NEW DELHI: New Naval Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Tuesday laid out his priority list, saying thrust areas would be better surveillance capabilities, greater longevity and safety of ships and improved communications and wider connectivity. Mehta, who took over from Admiral Arun Prakash at a ceremony on the lawns of South Block in the Capital, said various plans were afoot to achieve these targets in the near future....

The Times of India, 2 November 2006

**'Blue-water Navy is the aim'**

NEW DELHI: A truly blue-water Navy with strategic reach to operate from Africa's eastern coast right up to Malacca Straits. A satellite networked-force with maritime surveillance capabilities to keep tabs on the entire Indian Ocean Region (IOR). That, in short, is the mantra of Admiral Sureesh Mehta, who took over as the new Navy chief from Admiral Arun Prakash on Tuesday. "With India's rapid growth, the Navy has a much bigger role to play now, much more to contribute to the nation's strength," said Admiral Mehta....

The Times of India, 10 November 2006

**Navy plane makes forced landing in paddy field**

KOCHI: A naval Islander aircraft had to do a forced landing at a paddy field at Piravom near here on Friday, while on a routine sortie. All the five people on-board the aircraft were safe. Shortly after the twin engine aircraft took off from the naval air station here, the crew reported that one of its engines had failed and the Air Traffic controller at INS Garuda ordered them to return immediately to the base. Since it was unable to gain the minimum safe height, the crew decided to land at the uninhabited paddy field close to the Hindustan Newsprint Ltd (HNL), the Navy said in a statement.