

Force, Vol 3 No 1, September 2005, 1 October 2005

Navy inducts Brahmos (Prasun K. Sengupta)

The Indian Navy (IN) is to induct the BrahMos supersonic multi-role cruise missile into operational service. Efforts are now underway to integrate the BrahMos navigation and guidance systems with high-speed data links that will be able to receive course-correction and terminal guidance cues from the navy's Heron II unmanned aerial vehicles and maritime patrol /ASW aircraft launched from shore-based air bases and equipped with SAR payloads, as well as from the ship-borne Kamov Ka-31 airborne early warning helicopter. Currently, as part of on-going efforts to achieve a fair degree of proficiency in network-centric warfare, three project 15-class DDGs, three Project 1135.6-class guided missile frigates and the aircraft carrier INS Viraat are equipped with high-speed data links through which tactical control of the INS Israel Aircraft Industries /MALAT-built Searcher Mk2 and Heron II UAVs is exercised while at sea for real-time maritime reconnaissance.

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On American Wings: As Indian Navy issues a wish-list, the US starts the wooing process (Prasun K. Sengupta)

The Indian Navy has issued a global Request for Proposals (RFP) for supplying between eight to 12 medium-range marine warfare (MR/ASW) aircraft to supplement its existing eight Tupolev Tu-142M Mod 4 and five upgrade IL-38SD MR/ASW aircraft. The selected system's missions will comprise anti-surface warfare and ASW, search-and-rescue, target acquisition and intelligence gathering. The selected aircraft will also be equipped with under-wing pylons for carrying heavyweight torpedoes and anti-ship cruise missiles, and house an integrated electronic counter-measures suite for self-protection.

The New Indian Express, 7 October 2005

Indo-US warmth: Navy chief visits US base in Japan

New Delhi: Confirming the new Indo-US strategic partnership, Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash became the first Indian service chief to visit the US Naval base in Yokosuka, Japan, as part of his three-day visit to the country. Washington considers Yokosuka its most strategic Naval facility in the Western Pacific and its most valuable military installation overseas. With over 20,000 American military and civilian personnel, the base hosts an aircraft carrier and an amphibious battle group, and is a nodal point for the US Seventh Fleet.

The Indian Express, 13 October 2005

PM's day out, aboard INS Viraat : Defence Minister will also accompany Singh on Oct 15 (Shiv Aroor)

New Delhi, October 12: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will spend a day aboard aircraft carrier INS Viraat off the coast of Goa to witness India's defence capabilities in the Arabian Sea. Sources said the Prime Minister, accompanied by Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee, would be picked up by a Seaking helicopter at the INS Hansa Naval base in Goa, around 10 am on October 15, and taken to INS Viraat for an overnight stay on the country's only aircraft carrier. He will return to Goa at 3.30 pm the next day.

The Tribune, 13 October 2005

Navy trains South African officers

New Delhi, October 12: With providing training to a batch of officers from the South African Navy, the Indian Navy's submarine training school - INS Satvahana - has joined the elite club of establishments imparting training to friendly foreign navies. Opening a new chapter in the role and responsibility of this premier submarine training establishment, basic submarine training of the South African Navy officers on the Type-209 diesel-electric patrol submarine started from January 31.

The Indian Express, 16 October 2005

Russia plans war games with India (Reuters)

Moscow, September 26: Russian warships, paratroopers and a nuclear submarine will take part in joint naval exercises with India next month, hard on the heels of war games with China, Russia's Defence Minister said on Monday. China and India are both big buyers of Russian military technology, and maneuvers offer an ideal opportunity for Moscow to showcase its wares, analysts say. "In the middle of October joint exercises are planned with the armed forces and navy of India," Russian agencies quoted Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov as saying. They will take place in the Indian Ocean.

Force Vol 2 No 3 October 2005, 17 October 2005

Cruising Jointly: Eighth Indo-US Naval exercise in Arabian Sea (Ajit K. Dubey)

Malabar 05, eighth of the annual Indo-US naval exercises was conducted in the Arabian Sea from September 24 to October 4 this month. The Exercise involved the frontline ships, submarines and aircraft carriers from both

sides. Both the navies have exercised seven times before in the past in the Indian waters. The exercises have been focusing on issues such as counter-terrorism, anti-piracy; search and rescue. The exercises have benefited both the navies mutually. The cooperation between the two navies have moved apace with relationship between the two countries in the recent years. The process has been characterized by service to service interaction, high level visits, and joint exercises of increasing scope and complexity and significant cooperation in military training. The ongoing operational interaction between the navies of India and the US is determined and reviewed in successive meetings of the Executive Steering Group.

The Hindu, 19 October 2005

Sailing in tandem: India-Russia exercises (G. Narasimha Rao)

On Board INS Mumbai: The Indian and Russian navies are working together to develop their ability to counter maritime threats, notably those linked to terrorism. The Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Vice-Admiral Sureesh Mehta, told reporters on board this, the Western Naval Command's flagship, ahead of the joint India-Russia naval exercises, christened INDRA 05 that the main focus of the exercise was on anti-terrorist operations. The exercise, which started on Monday, will end on Wednesday.

The Pioneer, 20 October 2005

Need to enhance network-centric warfare: Naval Chief

Naval Chief Admiral Arun Prakash on Wednesday stressed the need for enhancing network-centric warfare and sea lift capabilities and also augment the maritime reconnaissance assets in view of the strategic importance of the oceans surrounding India. Addressing the five-day bi-annual Naval Commanders' Conference here, the Naval Chief said the extensive use of information technology would help top commanders to have a holistic picture of air, sea and under sea deployment and operational situation in real time. This could be achieved by having a robust and sophisticated network-centric set up, he said.

The Indian Express, 20 October 2005

Navy must gear up for global role: STRATEGY Plan to purchase US Navy landing vessel for Rs 200 crore (Shiv Aroor)

New Delhi, October 19: As India evolves a higher maritime security profile in the South Asian region, an immediate concern to the Navy is its lack of heavy sea-lift and mass landing capabilities to deliver forces at larger distances. Highlighting this as a void that will define strategy and shipbuilding over the next decade, Navy Chief Admiral Arun Prakash said this was a lesson learnt from post-tsunami relief operations. The Navy's diplomatic role has expanded, not just in terms of the number of countries we deal with and the variety of issues we interact on, but also in terms of expectations that others have from us today, particularly in the wake of the tsunami. We stand to reap rich dividends from our active international role, particularly in our immediate neighbourhood, the Navy Chief said today at the Naval Commanders' Conference.

The Indian Express, 20 October 2005

Russia hands over upgraded submarine to Indian navy (PTI)

Moscow, October 18: The refitting of Indian navy's Kilo class diesel-electric submarine INS Sindhughosh has been completed, with Russia handing it over to the crew. The work, which started two years ago, involved deep refit and up gradation at the 'Zvyozdochka' shipyard in Severodvinsk on the White Sea. After successfully passing the final tests in the White Sea last week, the sub is set to sail for home port this weekend. Earlier this month, INS Sindhughosh completed the tests of newly fitted deadly 'Club-S' cruise missiles at a firing range of the Russian Northern Fleet's Belomorskaya naval station in the White Sea, Regions.

The Tribune, 22 October 2005

Navy promised long-term funding

New Delhi, October 21: India today said it had not received any proposal from Pakistan on President Pervez Musharraf's offer of free movement across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and any action could be initiated only when it received a formal proposal. Speaking on the sidelines of the Naval Commanders' conference here Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said: 'We have not received any official proposal from Islamabad to this effect,' adding that only when an offer at an official level is received would 'we initiate any action'. On the recent agreement with France on the building of six Scorpene submarines under technology transfer, Mr Mukherjee said this would give a strategic boost to the country by reopening underwater vessel manufacturing capability within the country. He said for effective maritime defence India would require a credible naval force structured around aircraft carriers with a balanced mix of ships, submarines and aircraft to influence the battle on land. He said the induction of the state of the art submarines would provide the Navy sea-denial capability. Referring to the long gestation period that naval projects take, the minister said the government would ensure that the Navy was

provided with a long-term funding support from the Defence Ministry for a sustained growth.

The Hindu , 26 October 2005

Navy to survey Mauritian coast

New Delhi: As part of its policy of assisting neighbors, the Indian Navy will conduct a hydrographic survey of Mauritius' ports, islands and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) for the first time since the 19th century. The need was being felt more acutely after the tsunami since accurate data on sea bottom profile near the islands is considered essential to study and anticipate the likely impact of such a natural calamity.

The Hindu, 28 October 2005

India ready to export BrahMos

MUMBAI: India has finally cleared the high-tech supersonic cruise missile, BrahMos, and Chile could be among the first buyers. "The export of military hardware is no longer an issue, and we have started exporting the BrahMos," Vice-Admiral Madanjit Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, said on Thursday. He was addressing a seminar on "Navy-Industry Convergence: Challenges and Opportunities" here. Later, he told reporters that Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and the CEO of BrahMos Aerospace, A. Sivathanu Pillai, were in Chile and finalisation of the missile deal was on the cards. Other countries were also in the process of placing orders for the missile, a result of Indo-Russian joint research. He did not name any country but said some in South-East Asia could be among them.