

Hindustan Times, 4 October 2006

### **Indian Navy to increase fleet strength**

Kochi, October 4, 2006: The Indian Navy will increase its fleet strength by acquiring several ships, submarines and aircraft besides developing infrastructure to ensure that by the end of the decade it would be a force to reckon with, Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Arun Prakash, said on Wednesday. Addressing the Naval personnel in Kochi after inspecting a 50-man 'Nishan Guard' (Guard of Honour with the President's colours) and the 36 platoons on parade, he said what was significant was that most of these acquisitions would have about 90 per cent indigenous component. He also spoke on the 'Networking of the Navy' which will facilitate all naval units to share information using computer and satellite once the project is completed. The Naval chief also spoke about the various threats at sea like piracy, gun running and the need for the Navy to be strong and powerful to counter such threats.

Hindustan Times, 16 October 2006

### **PM wrongly advised on middlemen: former Indian Navy chief**

Strongly demanding an end to middlemen in defence deals, India's former naval chief Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat has said that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been wrongly advised on the issue. He described as "extremely unfortunate" Singh's statement that the presence of agents in defence deals was unavoidable, but their role could be regulated. Bhagwat also demanded a thorough probe into all defence deals during the tenure of former defence minister George Fernandes. "With all due respect to the prime minister, I would like to clearly say he has been misadvised on the issue. It is very unfortunate that an honest man leading the country should have formed such an opinion, as presence of middlemen is a very dangerous trend." "We have been victims of so many acts of subversions of military and civilian intelligence due to these middlemen and this should be shelved straightaway", Bhagwat told the BBC Hindi service programme Aapki baat BBC ke Saath....

Indian Express, 16 October 2006

### **Navy readies new policy to minimise mishaps**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15 : After a year blemished by accidents and collisions at sea, most of which were caused by negligence, the Navy is now putting together a new policy that will for the first time bring officers of the rank of Admiral into the chain of accountable following mishaps. Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash, who retires at the end of this month, has endorsed the policy. Under the policy, to be promulgated as an official Naval Order after being discussed at the upcoming Commanders. Conference, two Rear Admirals (equivalent to Major General in the Army) at Naval Headquarters will be mandated with the overall responsibility of safety on warships and submarines....

The Pioneer, 17 October 2006

### **Navy Chief calls Barak "incomparable"**

Navy Chief Admiral Arun Prakash today came out strongly in support of the controversial Barak missile saying it was a "very good and incomparable" system. "As far as we (Navy) are concerned, it (Barak) is a very good system. I don't think there is anything comparable today in any Navy," Admiral Prakash told reporters here. The Naval

Chief's views on the Israeli missile came close on the heels of the CBI registering an FIR against former Defence Minister George Fernandes, his associate Jaya Jaitley, former Navy Chief Sushil Kumar and others for alleged irregularities and corruption in the Rs 1,150-crore deal to purchase the system....

The Times of India, 17 October 2006

**FIR a 'matter of serious concern'**

NEW DELHI: The simmering unhappiness in Navy ranks over CBI's dragging its former chief, Admiral Sushil Kumar, into the Barak kickbacks case for allegedly pushing the Israeli anti-missile defence system over the indigenous Trishul AMD system burst out in the open on Monday. Reacting to the CBI FIR against Kumar, Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash said it was "a matter of serious concern". "We are trying to equip our armed forces for future conflicts, and if our equipment programme is going to be impeded in this manner, then it's a cause for concern. We must think seriously about it," he said....

Mumbai Newslines, 20 October 2006

**India wins maiden military sailing title**

Mumbai, October 19: The Indian team won their first-ever title at the 40th World Military Sailing Championship with a convincing lead over second placed Russia and third placed Sri Lanka at the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre at Pilot Bunder, Colaba on Thursday. The leader board didn't change at all on day 4 as the races were finally cancelled due to changing wind patterns which officials declared, were unfit for sailing. The Indian team, consisting Naresh Yadav MCPO I and C Murugan L/S, were thrilled with the win. 'We took advantage of the conditions as we are used to sailing here and did our best. It is the first time India has won an event like this so I am proud to be part of the team,' said Naresh Yadav MCPO I...

Times of India, 20 October 2006

**New chargesheet in war-room leak case**

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Thursday filed a chargesheet against controversial businessman Abhishek Verma in the Navy war room leak case, highlighting how the accused allegedly tapped former defence personnel for procuring sensitive information which was "directly or indirectly affecting the sovereignty and integrity of India". The chargesheet, the second in the case, is an eye-opener and tells a tale of deep-rooted nexus between middlemen and defence officials who not only helped foreign companies in bidding for defence deals but also procured sensitive information compromising the security of the country. "And for all this, they used wine, women, gifts and, of course, computer pen drives which leaked classified information," said an official...

The Tribune, 23 October 2006

**Navy to restore Sea King choppers**

The Indian Navy has awarded European aircraft major Agusta Westland the contract to restore to service seven Sea King Mk 42B helicopters that were stripped to keep the rest of the fleet in service. Their cannibalisation took place from 1998 onwards when the navy's almost entire fleet of 16 Sea King Mk 42Bs acquired in 1985 "and four Sea King Mk 42Cs that entered service a year later" were grounded due to lack of spares following

US sanctions against New Delhi over its nuclear tests....

Indian Express, 23 October 2006

**"We can devise our own model, but we must agree on the principle of unified command at the top"**

As chairman of the chiefs of staff committee, has the success of the Unified Andaman & Nicobar command provided actionable lessons for more integrated formations. If anybody had apprehensions that a tri-services structure would not work, their doubts should have been cleared by now. We've got three armed forces and the Coast Guard all working under a unified command at the Andamans, and they've been tested by the tsunami, which showed that it worked, and worked well. Conceptually, we've proved to ourselves that it's a model that can be replicated anywhere. Whether this lesson has gone down or not is a matter of policy. But all of this is a top-down process. We've done the bottom part, it's now up to the top to take some major decisions....

Indian Express, 23 October 2006

**Days before exit, Navy chief tells Govt: need a common chief for all 3 services**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20: 'Jointmanship is a serious issue between the three armed forces without unity of command at the top. Every country has its own model but we must agree on the principle of unity. We've done the bottom part ' it's now up to the top to take some major decisions.' In a parting shot days before he retires, Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash, who has also spent the last 20 months as Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) ' the highest joint decision-making body of the armed forces ' has told the government that if the armed forces are to make a meaningful break into the future mould of war effectiveness, it's imperative they stop operating independently and break down the barriers that continue to divide them...

The Hindu, 24 October 2006

**Navy plans joint exercises with U.S., Russia**

NEW DELHI: The Indian Navy will match skills with two of the world's biggest navies in quick succession next year. A flotilla will sail for the Pacific Ocean to exercise with U.S. forces towards the middle of 2007. It will then join the Russian Navy off the coast of Vladivostok for a round of joint exercises. This 'balanced' military diplomacy will be interspersed by interaction with ships from the Singapore Navy and a port visit to Japan by a Delhi class destroyer to coincide with the opening of the Festival of India, said a senior naval official....

Times of India, 24 October 2006

**India, US to step up military cooperation**

NEW DELHI: India and the US have decided to step up their military-to-military cooperation, hold more bilateral exercises and discuss ways to share information with each other. The agreement came after visiting United States Pacific Command Chief Admiral William J Fallon met Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash on Monday. Indian and American warships, incidentally, are gearing up to hold large-scale combat manoeuvres off the Goa coast under the 'Malabar' series over the next few days....

The Hindu, 28 October 2006

**India, US conduct joint naval exercises**

New Delhi, Oct. 28 (AP): Indian and U.S. destroyers, frigates and submarines conducted joint naval exercises off India's western coast on Friday, officials said. The two navies are engaged in exercises including anti-submarine operations, boarding hostile vessels and a "simulated war at sea," the Indian navy said in a statement. A Canadian frigate also joined the exercises....