

The Times of India, 2 October 2008

Editorial: The Pirate Threat

It has been over two weeks since the Hong Kong-licensed ship MT Stolt Valor with 18 Indian sailors among a crew of 22 was captured by pirates in the Gulf of Aden. Captain Prabhat Goyal's wife, Seema Goyal, has come to Delhi in that time to ask questions of a government that seems to be doing little to secure their release. Her campaign has had little visible effect. The government's sluggish response to the situation is difficult to understand. It has finally revealed that it is in negotiations to secure the sailors' release but that is too little too late...

The Asian Age, 5 October 2008

Adm. Mehta: It's about status and command

New Delhi: Indian Navy Chief and Chief of Staff Committee chairman Admiral Sureesh Mehta said on Saturday that the pay disparities (between the armed forces on the one hand and the paramilitary forces and civilian bureaucracy on the other) pertained to issues of "status and equivalence" as well as the "command and control" relationship (during joint operational functioning)...

The Indian Express, 6 October 2008

Antony pitches for two key pay demands of Services, pulls up Navy chief again

New Delhi: Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta, who sent out an unclassified signal on September 24 to all naval officers and ranks on withholding implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission salary recommendations, is learnt to have been pulled up again by Defence Minister A K Antony for the manner in which he, as Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee, led the other two chiefs - General Deepak Kapoor and Air Chief Marshal Homi Major - in virtually attacking the establishment...

The Times of India, 6 October 2008

Report on armed forces grievances expected in two weeks: Navy Chief

New Delhi: Rubbishing reports that he was censured by Defence Minister A K Antony for his "defiance" over the Pay Commission report, Navy chief Sureesh Mehta on Monday said he expected the ministerial committee looking into the "core issues" raised by the armed forces to give its recommendations within a fortnight. Mehta also reiterated that the defence personnel's grievances over the 6th Pay Commission report were "not about money," but about status equivalence and command and control issues...

The Asian Age, 7 October 2008

Navy Chief: Pay report in 2 weeks

New Delhi: Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta on Monday once again said that the pay disparities in the salaries of armed forces personnel would lead to problems in "command and control" (in case of joint operational functioning between the armed forces and the paramilitary forces in field areas). "If there is a command and control problem, there is a big issue there. And that is what is happening in the control rooms. You know that in the northeast and Jammu and Kashmir we have got these kinds of set ups," Admiral Mehta said...

The Times of India, 16 October 2008

US N-carrier joins Malabar exercise

New Delhi: The 10-day final phase of the Indo-US Malabar naval war games kicked off on Wednesday, with an American nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, a nuclear submarine and five other warships undertaking combat manoeuvres with seven

Indian warships and a diesel-electric submarine in the Arabian Sea. This round of the Malabar exercise, however, pales in comparison with its last edition, which saw the Australian, Japanese and Singaporean navies also joining the war games led by US and India in the Bay of Bengal in September 2007...

The Indian Express, 17 October 2008

Navy to patrol Gulf of Aden

New Delhi: In a bold move, India on Thursday gave a go-ahead for an Indian Naval warship - carrying helicopters and marine commandos - to begin patrolling the Gulf of Aden even as the Japanese ship carrying 18 Indians was not released by Somalian pirates. This comes almost a month after the Navy had sought to be authorised to take necessary steps, including right of hot pursuit and use of force against pirates. The Government had then denied permission...

The Indian Express, 18 October 2008

Editorial: Oceanic Indians

A month ago the Indian navy had sought permission to patrol the Gulf of Aden. The waterway is part of a crucial trade route and provides access from the Indian Ocean to the Suez Canal. In the past month too, the problem of Somali pirates has been highlighted, especially after the hijack of a Japanese vessel with 18 Indian crew members. This week the Government finally gave a clear signal to the navy. Now the Indian navy will operate alongside other navies, including those of NATO members like the United States, Turkey and Britain, to secure the sea route...

The Asian Age, 19 October 2008

Navy diverts warship to fight Somali pirates

New Delhi: The Indian Navy has diverted a ship that was already in the west Asian region to the Gulf of Aden to carry out anti-piracy patrols, sources have confirmed. "The ship has enough endurance to remain there and provide security to Indian flagships carrying cargo till another warship is sent there to replace it," a source said. The government on Thursday had approved the deployment of an Indian naval warship with helicopters and marine commandos on board in the Gulf of Aden to carry out anti-piracy patrols of the route followed usually by Indian commercial ships between Salalah (Oman) and Aden (Yemen) in west Asia...

The Asian Age, 19 October 2008

Malabar wargames on bigger scale this year

Panaji: With closer ties forged since the signing of nuclear deal, joint Indo-US naval exercises in the Malabar series are expected to see greater cooperation and complexity this year. The two navies have ranged 13 warships, two submarines and a host of fighter aircraft along the Arabian Sea for the October 19-23 exercises. Ten thousand personnel from both the navies will engage in a series of gunfiring, fighter combat operations, submarine warfare and maritime interdiction exercises for the 12th consecutive year of Malabar...

The Times of India, 20 October 2008

Navy hunts for hi-tech submarines

New Delhi: With the gigantic Rs 18,798-crore project to construct six French Scorpene killer submarines at Mazagon Docks in Mumbai finally gaining momentum, India's hunt for six new-generation submarines in a mammoth project worth well over Rs 30,000 crore is now well under way. Interestingly, the Navy has clearly specified that under this second line of diesel-electric submarines, called Project-75A, all the six vessels will be equipped with air-independent propulsion (AIP) systems to

significantly boost their operational capabilities...

The Asian Age, 25 October 2008

China Navy Chief will visit India

New Delhi: Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy Chief Admiral Wu Sheng Li will visit India on a five-day official visit from November 1, sources have confirmed. Admiral Sheng Li will be accorded a red-carpet welcome in New Delhi and will meet the Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta as well as the top brass of the Indian armed forces. Admiral Sheng Li is also likely to visit Mumbai, Goa and Karwar (in Karnataka) during his visit, sources indicated. The Chinese naval chief will be visiting India at a crucial time for Sino-Indian relations...

The Times of India, 25 October 2008

Defending India: An ageing naval fleet, obsolete equipment

New Delhi: If you thought the Indian airspace was impregnable from aerial threats or the country had adequate number of submarines to take the fight to enemy shores, think again. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has now punched big holes in these two critical defence areas. Over the last three years, TOI has highlighted the gaping holes in the country's air defence coverage - which is particularly alarming over central and peninsular India - as well as the fast dwindling strength of its underwater combat fleet, with projections showing Navy will be left with only eight to nine out of its present 16 diesel-electric submarines by 2012...

The Asian Age, 28 October 2008

Indian Navy steps up surveillance

New Delhi: The Indian Navy has stepped up surveillance in Indian territorial waters bordering Sri Lanka following intensification of the battle between the Sri Lankan armed forces and the LTTE, sources have confirmed. The Indian Navy has stepped up surveillance to ensure that "nothing untoward happens" in Indian waters, sources said. The Indian Navy has conducted "coordinated patrols" with the Sri Lankan Navy earlier, which means that each Navy conducts patrols only within its own territorial waters...