

The Indian Express, 1 September 2006

**Sureesh Mehta named new Chief of Naval Staff**

New Delhi, September 1: Senior most naval officer and fighter pilot, Vice Admiral Sureesh Mehta was today named as the country's new Chief of Naval Staff. Mehta, currently Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command, will assume the new post on October 31, on retirement of the present Chief Admiral Arun Prakash, according to a Defence Ministry announcement. Born on August 18, 1947, Mehta, an alumnus of National Defence Academy, has held many prestigious onboard and staff appointments including having commanded the Western Fleet, the sword arm of the navy during Operation Parakaram.

The Tribune, 8 September 2006

**Indian Navy to build 35 ships (Shiv Kumar)**

Mumbai, September 7: The Indian Navy's indigenisation process is expected to get a shot in the arm following the take over of Suresh Mehta as Chief of Naval Staff later next month. Mehta, a known supporter of indigenisation of the Navy, is backing the overhaul of domestic ship-building facilities so that the induction of new ships is speeded up. The process of placing orders with Indian ship building companies which went into high gear under outgoing Naval chief Admiral Arun Prakash is expected to get into high gear under Mehta, observers feel. The Navy which did not commission any new ship through the 1990s will have 35 new ships by 2012. The indigenisation programme of the Navy is also aimed to beef up its blue water capabilities, sources say. Simultaneously, the Navy is also obtaining more ships from abroad. Aircraft Carrier Admiral Gorshkov is expected to join the Navy next year while three Krivak Class frigates from Russia will be delivered by 2012.

The Hindu, 9 September 2006

**Anti-submarine warfare system handed over to Navy**

Visakapatnam: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Friday handed over the integrated anti-submarine warfare (ASW) equipment to the Navy. Chief Controller, Defence R&D, A. Sivathanu Pillai, handed over the equipment to Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command and Chief of Naval Staff designate Sureesh Mehta during a brief function on board INS Ranjit. "The system is developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) here and is equipped with a very advanced software. It has the ability to detect enemy vessels while being underwater and also fire torpedoes or missiles," Dr. Pillai said. Induction of the ASW equipment into the Navy would pave the way for smooth integration of indigenous weapons and decoy systems, while supporting the existing the inventory held by the Navy, he said. Vice-Admiral Sureesh Mehta inaugurated the system by powering it up. He congratulated the project team on successfully developing the system.

The Hindu, 11 September 2006

**Joint patrolling of Andaman Sea (P. S. Suryanarayana)**

Singapore: The Indian Navy and its Indonesian counterpart are engaged in a three-week patrolling of the Andaman Sea to counter piracy, smuggling and other trans-national crimes. The latest round of patrolling is part of the maritime operations that began in

September 2002 following the signing of a navy-level bilateral protocol. Scheduled to conclude ceremonially at Port Blair later this month, the current patrolling is also punctuated by a joint naval exercise aimed at improving "interoperability" between the two forces. Two Indian Navy vessels, a landing ship and a fast-attack craft, as also an Indonesian corvette were pressed into service.

The Hindu, 13 September 2006

### **Admiral Gorshkov to be named INS Vikramaditya**

Visakhapatnam: Admiral Gorshkov, the Russian aircraft carrier which is being made compatible to Indian conditions, will join the Indian Navy next year, Minister of State for Defence M.M. Pallamraju announced on Tuesday. He said it would be named INS Vikramaditya after being inducted into the Navy.

The Hindu , 19 September 2006

### **Navy to have second base near Vizag (Santosh Patnaik)**

Visakapatnam: The Indian Navy has set in motion efforts to set up a futuristic base between Rambilli and Elamanchili mandals, about 50 km south of Visakhapatnam. It has become imperative for the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) to have a new base as the existing channel of Visakhapatnam port shared by the Navy and the port is narrow and crowded. The new base is of strategic importance for the ENC to expand its facilities in an exclusive enclave by deepening a natural channel to have easy access to sea. Of the 5,000 acres sought by the Ministry of Defence, the Andhra Pradesh Government has already allotted 500 acres and the remaining land will be assigned shortly. As the allotment is for the Navy, the process is being accorded topmost priority by the district administration. A focal point for naval operations in the eastern seaboard, ENC has its origin in the Royal Naval Base developed in 1939, later commissioned as Royal Indian Naval Ship Circars in April 1942. Vizag has the submarine arm of the Navy and training centre for marine commandos. There are over 40 warships, six submarines and 22 aircraft under its operational command.

The Pioneer, 27 September 2006

### **US to transfer amphibious navy ship to India**

Washington: With military ties growing, the US is transferring one of its amphibious ships 'USS Trenton' to India to give the Indian Navy the capability to move troops and equipment to greater distances, a top American Commander has said. The transfer is expected to take place sometime this December, Commander of the American Pacific Fleet Admiral Gary Roughhead said. 'USS Trenton', the Admiral said, will give capability to the Indian Navy to move troops and equipment to great distances and the ability to remain off shore for a prolonged period of time. The Admiral, however, did not give any further details about the transfer of the amphibious ship. He maintained that free and open access to sea was an important and critical challenge and the two navies were "very closely aligned".