Ministry notifies defence officers' new pay bands

New Delhi: The Ministry of Defence has notified the new pay bands and other allowances on the basis of the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission for officers of the Armed Forces. The revised pay structure of pay bands and grade pay as well as pension will be implemented with effect from January 1, 2006 and the revised rates of allowances (except dearness allowance and relief) with effect from September 1, 2008, according to an official news release.

Op-Ed: Pay sorted, now armed forces should get on with reforms

When the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations came out earlier this year, the reaction in the rank and file of the Indian armed forces was strongly negative as it once again felt let down by the political-bureaucratic establishment. The veterans came out on the streets to protest and the Indian Army Chief was forced to take his case to the President, much to the annoyance of the government. The issues related to the Military Service Pay, the exclusion of rank pay from the pay scale of officers, leading to a lowering of officers' status, introduction of running pay bands were, among others, issues that caused a lot of consternation within the services, especially as it reinforced the perception that it's all part of a well-established behaviour pattern of their civilian masters.

Govt promises to look into armed forces' pay panel grievances

New Delhi: Rattled by the stand of the armed forces that implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission for them be "withheld" till their parity with civilian and paramilitary counterparts is restored, the government has promised to look into the issue on "a fast-track basis". As reported by TOI earlier, simmering anger in the armed forces against the Centre for notifying the Sixth Pay Commission report has now erupted over the "raw deal" given to Lt-Colonels and their equivalent ranks in IAF (Wing Commander) and Navy (Commander), who form the "bulk" of the officer cadre in Army, Navy and IAF.

Pay panel: Services seek Cabinet help

New Delhi: The three Service Chiefs demanded the intervention of the Cabinet, rather than that of a committee, to consider its demands on the Pay Panel report. Taking up a notch the row over pay bands and disparity of officer ranks with the civil sector, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee Admiral Suresh Mehta has written to the Defence Minister that the issue "cannot be left to the Anomalies Committee". Contending that the disparities in the pay report are not just anomalies but "core issues", the senior officer said the Cabinet should decide and "issue a corrigendum to the Pay Commission notification".

Indo-Israel defence partnership grows

New Delhi: With India having made defence purchases worth more than $5 billion from Israel in the past six years, the recent visit of a top Israeli general to India is indicative of the growing co-operation between the Indian and Israeli forces. The chief of the Israeli defence forces met Indian Army Chief Gen. Deepak Kapoor and Indian Naval Chief Admiral Suresh Mehta during his visit, South Block sources have confirmed. While the Army sources indicated that there was no plan as of now on Gen. Deepak Kapoor visiting Israel, there remains a possibility that he could visit...
Israel in the near future...

The Hindu, 14 September 2008

**Air-to-air missile Astra test-fired successfully**

Hyderabad: An important milestone in the pre-operational phase of Beyond-Visual-Range air-to-air missile, Astra was achieved on Saturday with the successful test-firing of the weapon system at Chandipur-on-sea, off the Orissa coast. Astra project director S. Gollakota told The Hindu from Chandipur that the ground launch of the advanced tactical missile, having the capability to intercept fast-moving targets at supersonic speeds (1.2 to 1.4 Mach), was carried out just after noon...

The Times of India, 14 September 2008

**Indo-Russian meet to sort out military hurdles**

New Delhi: India and Russia will strive to resolve problems dogging ongoing mega military projects for Sukhoi-30MKI fighters, T-90S main-battle tanks, stealth frigates and missile destroyers as well as futuristic ones like fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) and multi-role transport aircraft (MRTA) in a high-level meeting later this month. The 8th meeting of the Indo-Russian inter-governmental commission on military-technical cooperation, chaired by defence minister A K Antony and his counterpart Anatoly Serdyukov, will be held here from September 28 to 30...

The Asian Age, 17 September 2008

**'Centre crippling missile progress'**

New Delhi: Senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Jaswant Singh has accused the Manmohan Singh government of crippling country's missile development system by committing to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Mr Singh said the Prime Minister owes an explanation to Parliament and the country, on the issue. In a statement Mr Singh said India's commitment to MTCR was announced recently by Unisted States President George W. Bush to its Congress when the external affairs ministry sent them two letters in this regard...

The Indian Express, 18 September 2008

**Difficult to match China's military expansion: FM**

New Delhi: Defence analysts have known it for long, but perhaps for the first time a Cabinet Minister has admitted that India will be hard pressed to match China's military modernisation and expansion plans with the country spending more on its defence. Finance Minister P Chidambaram, who was delivering the Field Marshal KM Cariappa Memorial Lecture in the capital on Wednesday, expressed concern about China's rising military forces and said its "unpredictable positions" raise questions about its attitude to rising India...

The Indian Express, 21 September 2008

**MoD blinks on Lt-Col pay demand but tells services to promptly implement hike**

New Delhi: Responding to complaints by the three service chiefs, Defence Minister A K Antony has agreed to recommend raising the pay band for officers of Lieutenant Colonel rank and their equivalents. At the same time, the UPA has sent a polite memo to all three services to issue the "government draft notification letter" without any further delay as new salaries and arrears have to be paid to the armed forces on October 1, 2008...

The Indian Express, 23 September 2008

**Indo-US war games in Agra next year**
New Delhi, September 22 Taking defence cooperation with the US a step ahead, India will host an advanced aerial war game in Agra next year involving frontline helicopters and transport aircraft from both countries. The latest edition of the "Cope India" series of exercises will see the countries perform a series of complex maneuvers including launching 'joint operations' to rescue downed pilots in enemy territory...

The Hindu, 25 September 2008

**Antony seeks PM's intervention**

New Delhi: Defence Minister A. K. Antony has sought the Prime Minister's intervention to correct the anomalies in the pay scales of armed forces personnel, who have refused to accept the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations till the defects are rectified. Mr. Antony has approached Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after the Finance Ministry turned down the armed forces' demand for a review of the anomalies without assigning any reason, said informed sources...

The Times of India, 26 September 2008

**Pay parity battle: Navy, Army chiefs meet cabinet secy**

New Delhi: The armed forces continue to wage their battle against the notification of the new pay scales. Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta and Army chief General Deepak Kapoor met cabinet secretary K M Chandrashekar on Thursday to seek urgent corrective steps to resolve their pending "core issues". With the armed forces seething with anger at the delay in restoring their parity with their civilian and paramilitary counterparts, defence minister A K Antony was virtually forced to write to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday to seek his personal intervention in the matter...

The Hindu, 27 September 2008

**'Black Diwali' for armed forces**

New Delhi: It will be a "Black Diwali" for the armed forces as they have refused to accept the new pay scales till the anomalies are corrected. Other Central services, including the Indian Police Service (IPS), are awaiting word from the government on their plea for rectification of defects in the Sixth Pay Commission's pay scales. While the armed forces have refused to accept the revised salaries that were to be given this month, IPS officers too will continue to draw the old pay scales...

The Asian Age, 27 September 2008

**Forces refuse to accept new pay**

New Delhi: The armed forces Friday refused to implement the new payscales in protest against the government's failure to rectify disparities in the salaries of military officers compared to those in the paramilitary and the bureaucracy. "The armed forces submitted monthly formalities regarding pay to the MoD on the basis of old payscales. By doing so, they made it clear they will not implement the new payscales till these disparities are removed," South Block sources said...

The Times of India, 27 September 2008

**Govt sets up panel to review Defence forces pay hike**

New Delhi: The Government on Saturday formed a high-level committee headed by External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee to address Armed forces' concerns over "anomalies" in the Central Pay Commission (CPC) report. Following this, the Services decided to accept the revised pay scales "for the moment" and submit the salary bills to the Defence Ministry on Monday...
Defence staff agree to new pay for now
New Delhi: The Centre on Saturday set up a high-level ministerial committee to redress grievances of the armed forces personnel relating to revised pay scales. This follows the refusal by the three services chiefs to implement the "discriminatory" recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission. External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee will head the three-member panel. Defence Minister A.K. Antony and Finance Minister P. Chidambaram are the other members...

Anomalies in defence pay will be rectified, says Antony
Thiruvananthapuram: Defence Minister A.K. Antony has said though most recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission are beneficial to the armed forces, certain issues in the pay revision proposals need to be resolved. Interacting with presspersons here on Saturday, he said the Central government had cleared a Rs. 6,000-crore package for defence personnel, in addition to the proposed revisions in their pay. He said the soldiers pointed out certain flaws in the new pay package...

India, Russia to iron out defence problems
New Delhi: Even as India and US get into a tight strategic clinch, both New Delhi and Moscow are keen to bring the heady romance of yesteryears back into their lives, especially in the military arena. Defence minister A K Antony and his Russian counterpart Anatoly Serdyukov will hold high-level delegation meetings on Monday in a bid to resolve problems dogging ongoing mega military projects for Sukhoi-30MKI fighters, T-90S main-battle tanks, stealth frigates and missile destroyers...

India, Russia to step up strategic ties
New Delhi: India and Russia took a significant step in consolidating their strategic ties by extending the tenure of their joint panel on military and technical cooperation by another 10 years. Formed in 2000, the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) is the only joint body in the military sphere which is headed by Defence Ministers of both countries. At the ninth meeting of the IRIGC-MTC, Defence Minister A. K. Antony and his Russian counterpart, Anatoly Serdyukov, also decided to de-bureaucratise the working of this commission...