

The Hindu, 10 September 2008

Canadian naval ships to visit Chennai today

New Delhi: Two ships of the Canadian Navy will make a three-day stopover in Chennai from Wednesday, on their return journey after a four-month counter-terrorism deployment in the Arabian Sea. More than 100 sailors have volunteered to work at Servasev Vidhyalaya School at Manihottam and the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. They will tap the Task Force Arabian Sea (TFAS) Commander's contingency fund to buy computers, geometry boxes, library books and laboratory materials for the school. Binoculars, digital cameras, laptop computers and assorted stationary will be donated to the foundation, says a release issued by the Canadian High Commission...

The Asian Age, 11 September 2008

Navy Chief meets PC on pay disparity

New Delhi: Stepping up his efforts to ensure removal of reported disparities in the pay packages of officers in the Indian armed forces, Indian Navy Chief and Chairman of the Chief of Staffs Committee Admiral Sureesh Mehta has met finance minister P. Chidambaram and minister of state in the PMO Prithviraj Chavan. Admiral Mehta met Mr Chidambaram on Tuesday and "explained the situation" regarding the disparities in the pay packages of armed forces officers compared to their counterparts in the civilian bureaucracy and paramilitary forces, well-placed South Block sources confirmed...

The Times of India, 14 September 2008

Indian, Chinese navies to hold joint exercises

New Delhi: Even as India and China jostle for the same strategic space in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), driven as they are by the need to secure their energy and other needs, the two navies are taking steps to ensure the "competition" does not transform into "conflict". Chinese navy chief Admiral Wu Shengli will be visiting India in November-December to discuss ways to bolster confidence-building measures between the two naval forces through regular exercises, port calls and exchanges...

The Indian Express, 18 September 2008

Navy seeks nod to pursue pirates

New Delhi: With increased incidents of attacks on Indian sailors in the high seas, the Navy has sought permission from the Government to patrol pirate infested areas and take on any means necessary to protect Indian citizens. A proposal moved by the Navy a few weeks ago - which has been renewed after the recent incident involving 18 Indian sailors on board the hijacked MT Stolt Valor - asks for authorisation to tackle piracy at high seas to protect Indian citizens...

The Indian Express, 19 September 2008

\$200 m sought for Gorshkov overhaul

Moscow wants New Delhi to immediately pay \$200 million to cash-strapped Sevmash shipyard in order to speed up the upgrade of Admiral Gorshkov even though the final price negotiations of the ship are expected to be completed during Russian Defence Minister A Serdyukov's visit to Delhi later this month. Government sources said that after New Delhi expressed concern over the slow progress in overhauling Gorshkov (to be called INS Vikramaditya) at the Sevmash shipyard in North Sea, Russian asked South Block to immediately put in money without prejudice to the on-going price negotiations...

The Times of India, 20 September 2008

Navy considering proposal to patrol Gulf of Aden: Navy chief

Mumbai: The Indian navy is considering patrolling areas like the Gulf of Aden in collaboration with other navies in the future to curb incidents of piracy in the region, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta said on Saturday. "We are looking at that (patrolling the Gulf near the between Middle East Asia and Africa) and to make partnerships with other navies," Mehta said...

The Times of India, 20 September 2008

No govt nod to Navy for 'hot pursuit' of pirates

New Delhi: The Union government has virtually ruled out granting any "blanket permission" to the Navy to undertake "hot pursuit" of pirates on the high seas. Instead, the government feels the permission can be given "on a case-to-case basis" after "wider consultations" among the Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Law and Shipping on the international legal and diplomatic ramifications, said sources...

The Indian Express, 21 September 2008

Left gone, Antony still wary: shoots down Navy proposal to expand Indo-US exercise

New Delhi: Upset over not being kept posted on the multilateral nature of the Indo-US Malabar exercises last year that triggered full-fledged protests from the Left, Defence Minister A K Antony has now shot down proposals to include Japan and Singapore in the latest edition of these naval exercises...

The Times of India, 22 September 2008

Navy earmarks Rs 1,760cr for heavy-duty helicopters

New Delhi: After Army and IAF, it's now the turn of Navy to launch the hunt for its own specialised heavy-duty helicopters. The defence ministry has floated a global tender for an initial 16 advanced naval multi-role (MR) helicopters, which are likely to be followed by another 44. Each MR helicopter will cost as much as Rs 110 crore, virtually on par with a spanking new fighter jet, because of the sophisticated avionics, radars and armaments on board the 10-tonne platform which will be able to carry 15 combat-ready soldiers...

The Hindu, 23 September 2008

INS Tarangini off on four-nation voyage

Kochi: Air Marshal T.S. Randhawa, Commandant of the National Defence Academy (NDA) in Pune, got wind of the maritime phrase "fair winds and following seas" on Monday even as he waited at the South Jetty here to see INS Tarangini, the Indian Navy's lone sail training ship, embark on a four-nation sailing expedition with cadets from the country's premier tri-services training institution. He is happy that his cadets, a mix from the three military arms, will also learn to "understand each other's language" during the voyage...

The Hindu, 25 September 2008

Naval exercise with U.S. will only be bilateral

New Delhi: Defence Minister A. K. Antony on Wednesday said this year's Malabar series of naval exercise with the U.S. would not involve warships of any other country. Last year's Malabar exercise in the Bay of Bengal was an aberration in which besides the U.S., warships from Australia, Singapore, and Japan participated, leading to a political controversy and earning all the countries a demarche from China...

The Indian Express, 25 September 2008

No pact with Somalia, can't take action against pirates: Antony

New Delhi: Defence Minister A K Antony on Wednesday rejected the Navy's request for a greater role in tackling piracy by conducting joint patrols off the Somali coast and employing any means necessary to protect Indian sailors. While asserting that India will find a "solution" to rescue Indians onboard the hijacked MT Stolt Valor - taken on by pirates in the Gulf of Aden last week - Antony said patrolling would not serve any purpose...

The Asian Age, 27 September 2008

Navy seeks six more diesel subs

New Delhi: India has initiated the process of acquiring six more submarines on the lines of the under-construction Scorpenes to augment its underwater warfare capabilities. "The Navy has initiated the process of acquisition of six more diesel-electric submarines and has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to major manufacturers across the globe," top defence ministry sources said on Friday...

The Asian Age, 30 September 2008

Op-Ed: India has limited options in tackling piracy off Somalia

When the Hong Kong-registered tanker MV Stolt Valor, with 18 Indian sailors on board, was hijacked by pirates off Somalia on September 13, 2008, it was the 10th ship to be hijacked with Indians onboard and the 30th ship hijacked by Somali pirates for ransom in recent times. It was reported on September 20 that the Indian government had turned down the Indian Navy's second request in a month to carry out anti-piracy patrols or "hot pursuit" in such cases...