

'JeM planning underwater attacks'

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PUNE

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh on Monday said intelligence agencies have got inputs that Pakistan-based terror-outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) is training people for underwater attacks. He said all stakeholders in coastal security are ensuring that there is no intrusion from the sea.

ENSURING COSTAL SECURITY

He was speaking to media-persons on the sidelines of a lecture, titled 'Indian Ocean - Changing Dynamic - Maritime Security Imperatives for India', which is part of a series held in memory of late Army Chief General BC Joshi. Lt Gen SK Saini, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Command and Dr Nitin Karmalkar, Vice-Chancellor of Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) were present on the occasion.

Admiral Singh said the Navy was overall in-charge of maritime security. "The Indian Navy, maritime police, state governments and other stakeholders are making sure there is no intrusion from the sea. We have received intelligence that the underwater



INTERACTION: (From L) Southern Army Commander Lieutenant General SK Saini, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh (C) and SPPU Vice-Chancellor Professor (Dr) Nitin R Karmalkar, at the annual Gen BC Joshi memorial lecture at the Armed Forces Medical College. MUKKUND BHUTE

wing of Jaish-e-Mohammed is being trained for attacks. We are keeping track of it and are fully alert to foil their designs," he said.

When asked about budgetary allocation of Indian Navy going down, he said, "Because of the budgetary allocation, we have to do a little bit revamping of our procurement plan. Yes, it has limited us to some extent."

"We were 18 per cent of Defence budget in 2012-13, now we are down to 13 per cent. This way we find it very difficult to move with the

nation which wants to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024 and give it impetus on the maritime front," he said.

Admiral Singh further also said that the Navy is observing Chinese movement in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

"China wants to become a global power. We are watching them in the IOR. For us, our national interest is the topmost priority. We will have to act when there is something against our national interest," he said.

'China, Russia, US shaping overall security environ'

Senior Army, Navy and Air Force Officers, veterans, students of Defence and Strategic Studies, SPPU, attended the lecture held at the AFMC auditorium.

Emphasizing that the Indian Ocean has always been strategically significant, Admiral Singh said China's rapid growth, Russia's military resurgence and perceived decline of US military advantage, are shaping the overall

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security environment. Admiral Singh said human and drug trafficking, large scale illegal fishing form challenges in the IOR region.

'Indian Navy combat ready, credible and cohesive force'

Admiral Singh said the Indian Navy has emerged as a 'combat ready, credible and cohesive force' which is keeping pace with the rapid changes in the environment and ready to stride to protect the maritime interests. The lecture ended with a discussion and interaction of the Indian Naval Chief with the students.

In 1995, Headquarters Southern Command, based in Pune, and the University of Pune (now SPPU) jointly instituted an annual lecture series to honour General BC Joshi, in recognition of his to higher education and furthering University-Armed Forces interaction programme.