

Action against Tigers in T'Nadu successful. (1994, February 01).

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MADRAS, Monday (PTI) – The Indian coast guard and naval operations across the Tamil Nadu state coast to contain the movement of LTTE militants, though highly successful, were facing the danger of losing their momentum if prolonged endlessly, the chief of the coast guard's Eastern Command Capt. N. S. Achreja said here today.

Addressing a press conference on board the coast guard vessel, 'Vikram', he said any prolonged operation might lose its importance and tend to become routine. As the Sri Lankan situation deteriorated further, the naval and coast guard resources were being stretched to the limit, he said.

Capt. Achreja, who took over as the DIG of the Eastern Command recently, did not agree that smuggling of essential items was on the increase. On the contrary, due to high profile surveillance, smuggling activities were drastically reduced. Nor were there any encounters with LTTE boats for over an year. Whatever smuggling had taken place was through the involvement of some Indian fishermen, he said.

Capt. Achreja said the coast guard ships and aircrafts maintained round the clock vigil in the Palk Bay.

On the increasing attacks by the Sri Lankan navy on Tamil Nadu fishermen, he said the state government and the state's fisheries department should intensify propaganda about the dangers of crossing the international boundary line. The attacks took place in Sri Lanka waters. A number of Lankan fishermen, who strayed into Indian waters, were also detained and vessels seized by the coast guard, he said.