

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

**A Daily Current Awareness Service**



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## Army's Cheetah, Chetak copters to fly into sunset

New Delhi: The army has firmed up plans to retire its oldest lightutility helicopters, pushing the panic button, as a string of recent crashes have blemished the safety record of the machines.

A South Block source said that the early variants of the Cheetah and Chetak fleet will be replaced by the locally-made advanced light helicopter (ALH), also known as Dhruv.

### CHEQUERED PAST

**Nov 30, 2016:** A Cheetah helicopter crashes at Sukna in West Bengal, killing three officers

**March 11, 2016:** A Cheetah helicopter crash lands in Hoshiarpur

**Feb 3, 2015:** Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat (then a Lt Gen) survives Cheetah crash in Dimapur

**Oct 2, 2014:** Three army aviators killed in Cheetah crash near Bareilly

**May 23, 2012:** Pilot killed in Cheetah crash at Siachen

**Aug 18, 2010:** 3 officers die in Cheetah crash in Nagaland

The source said the army's aviation wing would replace 41 Cheetahs and Chetaks with new helicopters from the "ALH reserve stock" and the proposal would be sent for Cabinet committee on security approval soon.

The army and air force grounded their fleets of 280 lightutility helicopters last December, concerned if the machines were fit to fly, after three aviators were killed in a crash in West Bengal.

The Cheetah and Chetak helicopters, lifeline of troops in high-altitude areas, including the Siachen glacier, are being cleared for flying in batches by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) after carrying out a comprehensive safety check.

The Kamov-226T light utility choppers, to be built with Russia, are to replace these helicopters. However, the \$1-billion programme is yet to kick off and the military may have to wait several years for the new machines. Russia will supply 60 helicopters in flyaway condition while the remaining 140 will be manufactured in India.

"The manufacturing line of the ALH is quite stable and the machines are coming out at a pretty steady rate. The Kamovs will take time to come," a senior officer said. The army operates a mix of 150 Cheetahs and Chetaks.

The design of these helicopters is more than 50 years old and their airworthiness is being questioned after a string of mishaps. Nine personnel were killed in six accidents involving these machines during 2012-15. The Cheetahs play a crucial role in supporting the army on the Siachen glacier, one of the world's highest battlefields, flying at more than 20,000 feet.

A group of army wives met defence minister Manohar Parrikar in 2015, demanding the helicopters be retired. HAL has licence-produced 625 Cheetah and Chetak helicopters. It no longer builds them but is responsible for their maintenance and repair, a cause for concern.

## MAIL TODAY

## Def ministry defers creation of fresh military commands

*Services asked for formation of cyber, spl forces and space units*

The Government has deferred a long pending demand of the armed forces to create three new commands to deal with cyber, space and Special Forces while asking them to first create capabilities and structures for such operations before going in for expansion. To deal with these issues, the defence ministry has created three special cells under Major General-rank officers under the tri-services Integrated Defence Staff.

"The government has deferred the demand for creation of commands for Cyber, Special Forces and Space under senior Lt General-rank officers and asked the forces to first create capabilities for such commands,"

sources told MAIL TODAY. The decision to defer the creation of new commands was taken soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the senior military commanders that while global powers were reducing their manpower, Indian forces were continuously demanding expansion of their size.

“Modernisation and expansion of forces at the same time is a difficult and unnecessary goal. We need forces that are agile, mobile and driven by technology, not just human valour. We must re-examine our assumptions that keep massive funds locked up in inventories,” Modi had said in his last address to the combined commanders. The armed forces had initiated the demand for creation of three new commands during the UPA government where the three services had decided to take one each command for themselves creating three army commander-equivalent positions. The forces also wanted an army commander equivalent post to be created for the upcoming National Defence University which has been put on hold by the government. The new cells for the space, cyber and special forces are already working jointly with each other involving elements of the Indian Army, Air Force and Navy.

The cells have carried out some very important wargames also related to their domains involving space and cyber assets and their reports were shared with the Prime Minister’s Office, the sources revealed. The chiefs of staff committee, which comprises the Army, Navy and IAF chiefs, had recommended the urgent need for the three new unified commands in 2012.

The three services already have their own space and cyber cells as well as different Special Forces in the form of Para-SF battalions (Army), marine commandos (Navy) and Guards (IAF). The country has only two operational tri-services commands including the strategically-located Andaman and Nicobar command in Port Blair which will now probably have an officer from the Navy as its head permanently. The other tri-services organisation is the Strategic Forces Command which looks after the nuclear arsenal including the Agni series missiles for the Nuclear Command Authority—the Prime Minister headed body.

The government is now considering the creation of a fourstar officer appointment in form of the permanent chairman, Chiefs of Staffs Committee. Once the Permanent, COSC is created, the government would create a structure of joint forces under him which will include personnel and assets from the Army, Air Force and the Navy.



Sat, 07 Jan, 2017

## **Dragon's lair on Rafale flight path**

*By Rajat Pandit*

*First Squadron Will Be Based In Bengal to Boost Firepower in Eastern Sector*

India will base its first squadron of Rafale fighter jets, which are also capable of delivering nuclear weapons, in the eastern sector as part of the overall policy to gradually build nuclear as well as conventional deterrence against China.

With Sukhoi-30MKI fighters already operating from Tezpur and Chabua in Assam, the IAF has now finalised plans for the first 18 Rafales to be stationed at the Hasimara airbase in Bengal from late-2019. This comes at a time when India is also conducting final trials of the nuclear-capable Agni-IV and Agni-V ballistic missiles after the Strategic Forces Command inducted the AgniIII a couple of years ago.

Under the Rs 59,000 crore (7.87 billion euro) deal inked with France in September last year, the IAF will get 36 Rafales in batches by mid-2022 or so. With 14 India-specific requirements, including the capability for “cold start“ from high-altitude regions, the Rafale packs quite a punch with its ability to carry 9.3-tonne of weapons and simultaneously perform both air defence and ground attack missions.

“The Hasimara airbase currently has MiG-27s that will be retired over the next two-three years. They will be replaced by Rafales. A team from Dassault Aviation has already visited Hasimara to review the maintenance and other infrastructure required there,” said an official.

“The Sarsawa base (UP), among other places, is being considered for the second Rafale squadron. Under the contract, Dassault has to ensure minimum 75% availability for the jets at all times under the performance-based logistics support for the first seven years, which can be extended by another five,” he added.

The IAF also activated the advance landing ground (ALG) at Tuting, in Arunachal's Upper Siang district, just 10 days ago. It is the sixth such ALG to be made operational in Arunachal apart from the ones in eastern Ladakh, all with an eye firmly on China.

Moreover, the Panagarh base in Bengal is also set to get its six C-130J Super Hercules aircraft. Panagarh, of course, is also going to be the headquarter of the Army's new 17 Mountain Strike Corps being raised with two high-altitude infantry divisions, apart from other armoured, artillery, air defence and engineer brigades spread from Ladakh to Arunachal.

**CHINESE CHECKERS**

**STEPS BEING TAKEN:**

- > Nuclear-capable **Agni-III** (3,000km) ballistic missile inducted into the Strategic Forces Command
- > **Agni-IV** (4,000km) & **Agni-V** (over 5,000km) undergoing final trials
- > 2 new **infantry divisions** (36,000 soldiers) raised at Likabali & Missamari (Assam) in 2009-2010
- > New **Mountain Strike Corps** (17 Corps), with HQ at Panagarh (West Bengal), to be fully raised by 2021 with 90,274 soldiers
- > 6 **C-130J 'Super Hercules'** aircraft to be based at Panagarh by mid-2017
- > 6 **Akash** surface-to-air missile squadrons being deployed in northeast
- > **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missile regiment to be deployed in Arunachal
- > Activated **advance landing grounds** in Ladakh (DBO, Nyoma & Fukche) & Arunachal (Pasighat, Mechuka, Walong, Along, Ziro & Tuting)
- > Plan to boost military force-levels & infrastructure in A&N Islands

**Additional Sukhoi-30MKI fighters, spy drones & helicopters deployed in northeast**

**T-72 tanks deployed in Eastern Ladakh & Sikkim**

**RAFALÉ FIGHTERS:**

**36 Rafale fighters for Rs 59,000 crore (7.87 billion euro) as per deal inked with France on Sept 23, 2016**

- > 1st Rafale to come by Nov 2019. All 36 fighters by 2022
- > 1st squadron of Rafales to be based at Hasimara

**CAPABILITIES:**

- > 4.5 Gen omni-role fighter
- > Can simultaneously perform both air defence & ground attack missions
- > Can deliver nuclear weapons
- > Combat range from 780km to over 1,500km depending on mission

**CAN CARRY 9.3-TONNE OF WEAPONS:**

- > 150km beyond-visual range Meteor air-to-air missiles
- > 70km range MICA air-to-air missiles
- > 300km Scalp air-to-ground cruise missiles

## China could own a third aircraft carrier

China is expected to “own” a third aircraft carrier in the near future, the People’s Daily online reported, quoting a leading naval expert. The website quoted Liang Fang, a military expert as saying that “the Chinese military’s combat capability has grown by leaps and bounds in the past decade”.

He added: “At present, China’s second aircraft carrier is under construction. In the near future, the Chinese Navy is expected to own a third aircraft carrier strike group, capable of safeguarding territorial sovereignty and maritime rights.”

**Current carrier** - A website affiliated with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) also relayed the report. China has so far deployed Liaoning, its sole, aircraft carrier — an import from Ukraine — whose prime purpose is to impart training, so that a skilled core of personnel is developed, capable of marshalling more combat-worthy aircraft carriers of the future.

“While the Liaoning is far from a game-changer in the naval balance of power in the region, it has been efficiently utilised as a training platform to educate the foundational core of officers, sailors and airmen that will build the future Chinese aircraft carrier force,” says Brian Kalman, a military analyst, on the website South Front. Analysts say that the focus on aircraft carriers marks a doctrinal shift, allowing China to gradually transition towards exercising “sea control” far away from shores. At present the Chinese Navy is in a “sea denial” mode, focused on deterring external forces from intruding into Chinese waters.

Mr. Liang pointed out that though Chinese aircraft carrier strike group is not comparable with its U.S. counterpart in tonnage or number of aircraft, it can nevertheless boast of stamina and a bright future. He stressed that “from the perspective of future development, the U.S. military clearly lacks stamina, and the country's insufficient military spending is proof of that. In addition, frequent problems with U.S. Navy Super Hornet, F-35C and other carrier-borne fighters have seriously hampered the aircraft carriers' combat capability.”

### **U.S. deployments**

The website highlighted China's assertiveness, in the wake of upcoming naval deployments in the western Pacific by the U.S. Navy.

“On the first day of the new year, a fleet headed by aircraft carrier Liaoning held drills in the South China Sea. Around the same time, news was released that the USS Carl Vinson, a nuclear-powered American aircraft carrier, would deploy from San Diego, California to the Western Pacific region.” China's second aircraft carrier, CV-17 is currently at an advanced stage of construction at Dalian Shipbuilding in north-eastern China.



*Sat, 07 Jan, 2017*

## **Russia starts scaling down Syria military deployment**

Russia's military on Friday said it has begun scaling back its deployment to Syria, with Moscow's sole aircraft carrier ordered to leave the conflict zone first.

“In accordance with the decision of the supreme commander of the Russian armed forces Vladimir Putin, the defence ministry is beginning the reduction of the armed deployment to Syria,” military chief Valery Gerasimov said in televised comments. Gerasimov gave the command for the naval group headed by aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov — which also includes the nuclear-powered Pyotr Veliky battlecruiser and the Severomorsk destroyer -- to begin preparations immediately to return to its home port in the Arctic Circle.

“The tasks set for the aircraft carrier group during its military mission have been fulfilled,” added Russia's main commander in Syria, Andrei Kartapolov. Aircraft on board the carrier conducted some 420 sorties and hit 1,252 “terrorist” targets during the two months that it was involved in the Syria mission, Kartapolov said.

He insisted that Russia still had sufficient air defence capabilities in Syria thanks to its S-300 and S-400 systems deployed in the war-torn country. The Kuznetsov arrived off Syria in November as Russia boosted its firepower on land and in the Mediterranean to support regime forces targeting the second city of Aleppo.

During its deployment to Syria, the Soviet-built Kuznetsov suffered a series of embarrassing accidents, with military analysts questioning the tactical importance of the ageing vessel. Troops loyal to Russia's ally Bashar al-Assad finally ousted rebels from Aleppo last month in their biggest victory in more than five years of fighting, paving the way for the Kremlin to launch a fresh push for a political solution to the conflict.

## लेजर हथियार करेंगे अचूक प्रहार

हम सभी ने साइंस फिक्शन फिल्मों में ही युद्ध के दौरान लेजर तकनीक का इस्तेमाल होते हुए देखा है। जल्द ही यह हकीकत भी बनने जा रही है। ब्रिटिश



रक्षा मंत्रालय ऐसे हथियार, विमान और पोत का निर्माण करवा रहा है जो घातक लेजर तकनीक से लैस होंगे। इसके निर्माण का जिम्मा उसने वहां की कंपनी यूके ड्रैगनफ्लाय को दिया है। परीक्षण के बाद 2020 तक यह तकनीक थल सेना व नौसेना में शामिल होगी। आतंकियों द्वारा ड्रोन से ब्रिटेन के शहरों को निशाना बनाए जाने की आशंका के बीच यह उनका बड़ा सुरक्षात्मक कदम होगा।

### लेजर तकनीक

प्रकाश पुंजों के एक दिशा में लगातार उत्सर्जन से अत्यधिक ऊर्जा वाली रोशनी पैदा होती है। यही ऊर्जा पैदा करने वाली तकनीक को लेजर कहा जाता है।

### प्रभावकारी भी किफायती भी

घातक हथियारों व तकनीकों में ज्यादा खर्च आता है और इनकी क्षमता भी सीमित होती है। लेजर तकनीक जितनी प्रभावी है उतनी ही सस्ती भी है। इसमें केवल ऊर्जा के स्रोत की जरूरत पड़ती है।

**3** करोड़ पाउंड निर्माण की राशि (3.69 करोड़ डॉलर)

**2** किमी वह दूरी जहां तक ये हथियार अचूक निशाना लगा सकेगा

**2020** वह साल जब ब्रिटेन की थल और नौ सेना इनसे होगी लैस

**2030** ब्रिटिश वायु सेना में शामिल किए जाने वाला साल

### पल भर में लक्ष्य स्याहा

इन हथियारों से निकलने वाली घातक किरणें पलक झपकते ही रॉकेट, युद्धपोत, मिसाइलों को नष्ट कर सकेगी। इसे ऐसे तैयार किया जा रहा है कि दो किमी दूर उड़ रहे ड्रोन को भी पलभर में गिराया जा सके।

### बचने की गुंजायश नहीं

लेजर हथियारों से विमान में छेद कर उसे गिराया जा सकेगा। उसके सेंसरों को तबाह किया जा सकेगा। इसके अलावा विमान चालकों की आंखों को तेज रोशनी से चकाचौंध किया जा सकेगा, जिससे उनका नियंत्रण विमान से हट जाए और विमान नीचे गिर पड़े।

### अमेरिका में भी प्रयोग

अमेरिकी सेना भी कई साल से इस तकनीक पर काम कर रही है। 2014 में सेना ने अरब की खाड़ी में मालवाहक पोत यूएसएस पोस पर लेजर किरणों वाले हथियार का प्रयोग किया था।



**hindustantimes** hindustantimes.com

## Online Big Data courses give graduates an edge: Experts

New Delhi: Graduates who have done open online courses in their field have an edge over others, say recruiters. According to experts, companies prefer engineering graduates who have done massive open online courses (MOOC) in data analytics and computer languages that are not offered in degree programmes.

According to Aspiring Minds, a global assessments solutions company, the number of job postings for data analyst, data scientist, and data engineer has registered a year-on-year rise of over 30%.

However, just getting a certificate isn't enough. Narayanan Ramaswamy, partner and head of education and skill development, KPMG in India, said: "For instance, an engineering graduate with a certificate on data analytics can get an edge over others if the recruitment expert is impressed by his or her expertise on the

topic.” Moreover, these certificates are good for enhancing your knowledge, he said, adding no human resources manager advises anyone to take these online courses.

Recruitment experts say these certificates aren’t stand-alone qualifications, but value additions. “Candidates with MOOC certification show they have made additional efforts to enhance their skill set,” said SV Nathan, chief talent officer, Deloitte India.

He further said candidates demonstrating their learning at work stood them in good stead. With these courses being in demand, global players are tapping the Indian market.

“There’s a surge in employees taking data science courses, including big data, data analytics and programming using Python, artificial intelligence on edX. “It is unfortunate that institutes fail to equip students with these skills even though these are in demand among employers,” said Amit Goyal, country head, edX India.