

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा
A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 44 No. 27 6 February 2019



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय
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After Mirage crash, HAL-built army chopper Rudra makes emergency landing

A Rudra Mk IV armed chopper, built at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), on Tuesday made an emergency landing outside Bengaluru due to possible hydraulic failure, two officials familiar with the development said on condition of anonymity. The pilot and the weapon systems officer are safe.

The chopper mishap comes four days after two Indian Air Force pilots were killed when their Mirage-2000 fighter crashed during takeoff at the HAL airport. The French-origin trainer aircraft, manufactured by Dassault Aviation, was on an acceptance sortie after being upgraded at HAL. The Rudra was also on an acceptance sortie, said one of the officials cited above. An HAL spokesperson said that a technical team was rushed to the site after the Rudra chopper, a weaponised armed version of the indigenously-built Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv, made a precautionary landing. Asked if the chopper was on an acceptance sortie, the HAL official said the machine belonged to the Army Aviation Corps and was part of a Rudra squadron that operates from the HAL facility. The official said the chopper was flown back to the HAL facility.

The incident involving the Rudra comes at a time when questions are being raised about the capabilities of the state-owned plane maker and several projects are behind schedule. There are four weapon stations on the Rudra with a turret gun in its nose area. The helicopters are also equipped with air-to-air missiles, 70 mm rockets and 20 mm turret guns. New variants are being equipped with anti-tank guided missiles, infrared jammers and obstacle avoidance systems.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/after-mirage-crash-hal-built-army-chopper-rudra-makes-emergency-landing/story-bXm217OWkhktuBAYdHSVeO.html>

N Korea protecting nuke missiles: UN monitors

North Korea is working to ensure its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities cannot be destroyed by military strikes, UN monitors said ahead of a meeting between US and North Korean officials to prepare a second denuclearisation summit.

The US special envoy for North Korea, Stephen Biegun, will meet his North Korean counterpart today in Pyongyang to prepare for a summit later this month between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the US State Department said on Monday.

Biegun has said he hoped the meeting with new North Korean counterpart Kim Hyok Chol would map out "a set of concrete deliverables" for the summit between Trump and Kim Jong Un.

Biegun, who held talks with South Korean officials in Seoul on Sunday and Monday, said he would be aiming for "a roadmap of negotiations and declarations going forward, and a shared understanding of the desired outcomes of our joint efforts".

South Korean officials said they and the United States could be looking at a compromise that could expedite North Korea's denuclearisation - the dismantling of the North's main Yongbyon nuclear complex, which could be reciprocated by US measures including formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War and setting up a liaison office.

But UN sanctions monitors said in a confidential report, submitted to a 15-member UN Security Council sanctions committee and seen by Reuters on Monday, that they had "found evidence of a consistent trend on

the part of the DPRK to disperse its assembly, storage and testing locations", using the abbreviation for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It has also repeatedly urged a lifting of punishing US-led sanctions, a formal end to the war, and security guarantees.

The UN report said sanctions were proving ineffective.



Wed, 06 Feb 2019

India among countries to benefit from US-China trade war: UN

India is among the several countries that stand to benefit from the ongoing trade tensions between the world's top two economies - the US and China, the UN has said in its latest report.

The US and China are locked in a trade war since President Donald Trump imposed heavy tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items in March last year, a move that sparked fears of a global trade war. In response, China imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on billions of dollars worth of American imports.

The United Nations experts said Monday that the tit-for-tat trade dispute between China and the United States may do little to protect domestic producers in either country and could have "massive" implications on the global economy unless it is resolved. Of the USD 250 billion in Chinese exports that are subject to US tariffs, only about six per cent will be picked up by firms in the US, according to a report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

And of the approximately USD 85 billion in US exports that are subject to China's tariffs, only about five per cent of this will be taken up by Chinese firms, according to the UN research. In a bid to meet the US' demand of bringing down the USD 375 billion bilateral trade deficit,

China has pledged to take measures to step-up American imports and investments. March 1, 2019 is the deadline for implementing the measures Unless the US and China agree to drop their tariff dispute by March 1, duty on each country's products will rise to 25 per cent, up from the current 10 per cent level, the UN said. Countries that are expected to benefit the most from the trade war are the EU members as exports in the bloc are likely to grow by USD 70 billion.

Japan and Canada will see exports increase by more than USD 20 billion each, it said. Other countries set to benefit from the trade tensions include Australia, with 4.6 per cent export gains, Brazil (3.8) India (3.5), Philippines (3.2) and Vietnam (5), the study said. Quoting former US Secretary of State Cordell Hull, UNCTAD's Pamela Coke-Hamilton repeated his description of protective tariffs as "a gun that recoils on ourselves", which had also contributed to the Great Depression of the 1930s and the rise of extremism. "I think that is a single lesson from what we have had here today. If - barring an agreement between the US, China on March 1 - tariffs will escalate to 25 per cent, which is a significant difference from the 10 per cent as it currently exists," Coke-Hamilton said.

The implications of such a development would be "massive", the UNCTAD Director, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, continued, adding that its effects would first of all involve "an economic downturn... due to instability in commodities and financial markets". "One major concern is the risk that trade tensions could spiral into currency wars, making dollar-denominated debt more difficult to service," the report added. Imposing tariffs make US-made products cheaper than imported ones, and encourage consumers to buy American. PTI CPS AKJ CPS

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/business/2019/02/05/fgn22-un-tradewar-india.html>

खिसक रहा है चुंबकीय उत्तरी ध्रुव, बदल रहा है कम्पास

धरती की उत्तरी दिशा अपनी जगह से खिसक रही है। पृथ्वी का चुंबकीय उत्तरी ध्रुव पिछले कुछ दशकों में इतनी तेजी से खिसक रहा है कि वैज्ञानिकों के पूर्व में लगाए गए अनुमान अब नौवहन के लिए सटीक नहीं रहे। सोमवार को वैज्ञानिकों ने एक अपडेट जारी किया कि दू नॉर्थ असल में कहाँ था। यह अपडेट तय समय से करीब एक साल पहले जारी किया गया। चुंबकीय उत्तरी ध्रुव हर साल करीब 55 किलोमीटर खिसक रहा है।

इसने 2017 में अंतरराष्ट्रीय तिथि रेखा) आईडीएल (को पार कर लिया था और यह साइबेरिया की तरफ बढ़ते हुए फिलहाल कनाडाई आर्कटिक से आगे बढ़ रहा है। कोलाराडो यूनिवर्सिटी के भूभौतिकीविद एवं नये वर्ल्ड मैग्नेटिक मॉडल के प्रमुख शोधकर्ता अर्नोड चुलियट ने बताया कि लगातार बदल रहे इसके स्थान की वजह से स्मार्टफोन एवं उपभोक्ता के इस्तेमाल वाले कुछ इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स के कंपासों में समस्या आ रही है।

विमान एवं नौकाएं भी चुंबकीय उत्तर पर निर्भर रहती हैं खासकर नौवहन में अतिरिक्त मदद के लिए। जीपीएस इसलिए प्रभावित नहीं हुआ है क्योंकि वह उपग्रह आधारित है। सेना नौवहन एवं पैराशूट उतारने के लिए इस बात पर निर्भर रहती है कि चुंबकीय उत्तर ध्रुव कहाँ है जबकि नासा, संघीय विमानन प्रशासन एवं अमेरिकी वन सेवा भी इसका इस्तेमाल करती है। हवाईअड्डे के रनवे के नाम भी चुंबकीय उत्तर की ओर उनकी दिशा पर आधारित होते हैं और ध्रुवों के घूमने पर उनके नाम भी बदल जाते हैं।

मेरीलैंड यूनिवर्सिटी के भूभौतिकीविद डेनियल लेथ्रोप ने बताया कि इसका कारण पृथ्वी के बाहरी कोर में हलचल है। ग्रह के कोर में लोहे एवं निकल का गर्म तरल महासागर है जहां हलचल से विद्युतीय क्षेत्र पैदा होता है। वहीं चुंबकीय दक्षिणी ध्रुव उत्तर के मुकाबले बहुत धीमी गति से खिसक रहा है। एपी नेहा अर्पणाअर्पणा

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/world/science-news/moving-magnetic-north-pole-is-changing-compass/articleshow/67847247.cms>

Russia to develop new missile systems by 2021

Move comes after key treaty pullout

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu on Tuesday said the country must develop new types of missile systems in the next two years after Washington and Moscow ripped up a key arms control treaty.

The United States has repeatedly accused Russia of violating the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) agreement and on Friday President Donald Trump said Washington was starting a process to withdraw from the treaty in six months.

In a tit-for-tat move on Saturday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow was also leaving the treaty and beginning work on new types of weapons that would breach the crucial

Cold War-era agreement.

At a meeting with officials on Tuesday, Mr. Shoigu said Russia should develop two new missile systems in the next two years. "During 2019-2020 we have to develop a land-based version of the seaborne Kalibr system equipped with a long-range cruise missile which showed good results in Syria," he told Defence officials.

"Over the same period we will also have to create a land-based missile system with a long-range hypersonic missile," he said.

The Defence Minister said the plans had been approved by Mr. Putin.

The INF agreement forbids ground-launched, short- and intermediate-range missiles, but not those launched from the air or sea – which Russia already has.