ALH fleet unlikely to fly for 3 more months

Rahul Singh

NEW DELHI: The military's Dhruv advanced light helicopter (ALH) fleet, which was grounded nearly three months ago following a fatal crash in Gujarat, will stay out of action for at least three more months with investigators struggling to determine the root cause of the accident in which two Indian Coast Guard pilots and an aircrew diver were killed, officials with aware of the matter said on Tuesday.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which has designed and developed the ALH, has broadened the scope of the ongoing investigations by involving Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to perform fatigue testing of a critical part in the transmission helicopter's transmission system to get to the bottom of the matter, the officials said, asking not to be named.

The prolonged grounding of the workhorse fleet is a setback for the three services and the coast guard who together operate around 100 ALHs. Military helicopters such as Mi-17s, Cheetahs and Chetaks are unaffected because of the ALH's grounding. HT has learnt.

A high-powered panel found that a metallurgic failure caused the coast guard ALH crash in Porbander to Gujarat on January 5. But a question mark hangs over the reason for the breakdown of the critical component that compromised the ability of the pilots to control the helicopter's rotors.

A flight-safety inspection conducted after the crash has revealed that some navy and coast guard ALHs are facing the same problem — cracks in the swashplate assembly — and this could be linked to sustained operations in a saline environment, said one of the officials cited above. In recent discussions among stakeholders, some people proposed that the army and Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters could resume flying but the suggestion was shot down because safety concerns.

"HAL has provided IISc with the raw material — essentially an aluminium alloy — that the swashplate is made of. It is carrying out tests to determine the material's ability to withstand loads in different operating conditions. Once that report is in, we will know whether it was a material failure or something else," the official added.

HT was the first to report on February 4 that a detailed analysis by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), Bengaluru, pointed to a swashplate assembly failure.

The IISc is expected to submit by April-end its report to the Defence Investigation Committee (DIC) formed after the crash, said a second official.

The committee was set up to find out what caused the material failure and how to address it to achieve safe flight operations. It consists of officials from the Bengaluru-based Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC), the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance and HAL.

"The DIC will incorporate the IISc's findings into its report, which is likely to be submitted in May. It will take at least another month to carry out fleet-wide checks and fix the problem. Note that the ALH fleet can return to service will also depend on whether the checks can be carried out on the field or the integrated dynamic system, including the transmission system, operates on a one-hour check of each helicopter will have to be brought to HAL," a second official said.

The fleet could stay grounded any beyond three months if the problem turns out to be more than a material failure — a design issue, and a third official.

The ALH underwent a design review followed by a replacement of a defective control system only in 2023-24. The ALH's armed version Rudra was also grounded after the January 5 crash. The army and the IAF account for more than 90 Rudra helicopters. The ALH has been involved in around 15 accidents during the last five years, pushing the spotlight on its troubling safety record.

The coast guard suspended ALH operations following an accident last September when a helicopter crashed into the Arabian Sea near Porbandar. Three too, two pilots and an aircrew diver were killed. The grounding was for a one-time check. The three services did not ground their fleets then.

The coast guard cleared the helicopters for flying a few weeks later, after a safety inspection involving HAL, CEMILAC and all coast guard units.

Last September's accident, too, came after the design review that culminated in a critical safety upgrade on the ALH fleet, bolstered by HAL. It involved installing upgraded control systems on the helicopters to improve their airworthiness.

The comprehensive design review came after the ALH fleet was grounded several times in 2022 too after a raft of accidents called into question its flight safety record.

The prolonged grounding of the workhorse fleet is a setback for the three services and the coast guard. HT FILE

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PASTOR

has been proved an accused that she was in touch with Rajinder and he committed rape. It is crystal clear that the accused threatened her," the court said, convicting the accused.

Rajinder, however, sought a lenient view, citing he has three children, including two daughters, and his wife is suffering from a spine problem. He said he has a cook in his family, too.

The defence counsel said: "He is a preacher of Christianity and has many followers. The convict is serving humanity with humility and dedication and doing several social service and religious work."

However, the judge said that the convict had misused his position as a preacher repeatedly and had committed a heinous offence. "A rapist not only causes physical injuries but also leaves an indelible scar on the most cherished possession of a girl i.e. her dignity, honour, reputation and not the least, her chastity. In such circumstances, every perpetrator of rape should be punished exemplarily, severely and strictly," the court said.

Victim faints after hearing verdict

Dwivedi defined the victim, 39, who belongs to Hoshiarpur, and stayed in a rented accommodation in Zirakpur. Named after the conviction pronouncement. Talking to the media later, she said after fighting a seven-year-long battle amid threats to her life from Rajinder and his supporters, the judiciary had come to her rescue. "It is a huge relief. Many false allegations were levelled against me and my family after I reported the pastor. He made our life difficult," she said.

In her complaint in 2018, the woman, who worked as a domestic help, told the police that Rajinder came in contact with her in 2017 and promised to send her abroad. The victim made her associate Jatinderjit Singh and two others pay ₹1 lakh to Rajinder for going abroad. Jatinderjit, however, turned her down in court.

The woman became a part of his team of volunteers who looked after Rajinder's security at his events. She alleged that Rajinder first raped her at his rented flat in Sector 63, Chandigarh, on September 7, 2017, and recorded a video of the assault. He threatened to post the video on social media if she complained or did not give in to his demands. After that, he sexually assaulted her repeatedly.

When she noticed co-deletion of video, Rajinder asked his supporters Jatinderjit, Akhar Sarar Ali, Sachit Singh, Chaudhary and Pehalwan to beat her up. Following which the victim alleged that abused and touched her inappropriately.

After the police received the complaint in April 2018, the accused allegedly went underground following which police got a 'proclaim' notice issued against him on May 2, 2018. He was arrested from Delhi airport on July 18, 2018, while trying to flee to London.

WAQF BILL

Tania T/HT) and the Left.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief Asaduddin Owaisi accused the BJP of attempting to "snatch" the rights of Muslims and said the government were a "grave violation" of the Constitution. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav opposed the bill. "We are against the Waqf Board Bill because the BJP wants to interfere in everything. They want control everywhere," Yadav said.

A waqf is a Muslim religious endowment usually in the form of landed property, made for purposes of charity and community welfare.

The draft bill, introduced by the government last year, proposed sweeping changes in the regulation and governance of India's waqf boards.

New Delhi, Beijing working on plan to stabilise bilateral ties

Rezaul H Laskar

NEW INDIA: India and China have resolved several issues in their border areas and are working on a road map to put bilateral ties on a "stable, predictable and amicable path", foreign secretary Vikram Misri said on Tuesday at an event organised by the Chinese embassy to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Misri's presence at the reception hosted by Chinese ambassador Xu Feihong marked a significant turnaround from India's practice of dispatching a junior diplomat to events organised by the Chinese embassy during the more than four-year military standoff on LAC, or even skipping certain events.

With the two sides reaching an understanding last October on withdrawing troops from the "friction points" at Demchok and Depsang and holding a series of meetings to normalise relations, Misri and Xu also participated in a team to bilateral ties and cut a conventional cake.

Misri described the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties as an opportunity to rebuild India-China ties but made it clear this process can be durable only if it is based on "mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests". He said peace and tranquillity on the border areas is "critical for the smooth development of our overall bilateral relations".

Noting that bilateral relations had gone through a difficult phase in the past two years, Misri said, the two countries had "resolved several issues" along the border areas due to guidance from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping and the efforts of the political and military leadership.

The "fundamental understanding" that peace and tranquillity on the border is critical for the overall relationship was shared at the meeting between Modi and Xi in the Russian city of Kazan last October, and it is on the basis of this that both sides are "working together to chart a road map for our bilateral relations to return to a stable, predictable and amicable path", Misri said.

The face-off on the LAC, which began in April-May 2020, took bilateral relations to their lowest point since the 1962 border war. Modi and Xi met three days after the understanding on October 21 last year to withdraw from friction forces and agreed to restore national mechanisms to normalise relations. Since then, the foreign ministers have met in November 2024 and in February while the Special Representatives for the India-China boundary question — National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and foreign minister Wang Yi — met in Beijing in December 2024.

After a gap of nearly five years, India's minister Rajnath Singh met his Chinese counterpart in November 2024, and Misri visited Beijing in January for a meeting with his counterpart, vice foreign minister Sun Weidong.

"As a result of these recent engagements, we are looking at taking several steps to ensure practical cooperation between our two countries," Misri said.

National Dairy Development Board

[illegible]

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Open tenders through E-tendering are invited on behalf of President of India by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Construction, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

S.No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (₹)	Bid Security(₹)	Period of Completion	Date of closing & Opening
1.	Provision of New Tube Well with Pump House at Ambala City station in Sec-III at Ambala Divisions.	[illegible]	[illegible]	08 Months	24.04.2025
2.	Augmentation of existing CCTV on Rail other Colony (Phase-I) in the section of [illegible] under ADEN/UMB.	[illegible]	[illegible]	08 Months	24.04.2025
3.	Diverse work of Rj Pipeline & repair of large damage wall and failed sleeper on UM-DLF section in the section of [illegible] under ADEN/PATA (B). Repair to damage water facilities of QM No. [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	08 Months	24.04.2025
4.	CTR in the section of [illegible] under ADEN/PTA	[illegible]	[illegible]	08 Months	24.04.2025
5.	Repair of Quarters in Rail other colony under ADEN/UMB.	[illegible]	[illegible]	08 Months	24.04.2025

To furnishers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. The required fee/security will be accepted in online payment through Net Banking/e-Payment Gateway payment only. To remarks physical fees/ bank draft/pay order/ Digital Signature Certificate to participate in e-tendering will be accepted. [illegible]

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., Principal Chief Engineer, invites Open Tender Single Bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS portal from eligible contractors for the following work. **Name of Work: Supplying and stacking of ballast at Murudeshwar ballast depot, loading into KRC), hoppers for CTR (P) works under SEN/Ukai section in the jurisdiction of Senior Regional Engineer, Karwar in Karnataka State. Tender Notice No.: KR.W-1-58.2025-01. Estimated Cost:** ₹ 2,38,16,982/- (Excluding GST). **Closing Date/Time: 23/04/2025** upto 15:00 hrs for submission of on line offers/bids. **Completion Period:** Nine months including monsoon. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit **https://mstc.gov.in** website for details / participation. Corrigendum / addendum will be hosted in the website only.

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The details may be collected from Bank's **Zonal Office, Chandigarh** Branch/ Office or can be downloaded from our **Bank's Website** or **www.ucobank.in**. The last date of application in sealed cover on prescribed format is **23.04.2025**.

DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER & ZONAL HEAD

Walk-in-Interview for the posts of Private Secretary in the office of Chairman, Haryana Real Estate Appellate Tribunal, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh

For the Post of Private Secretary

One post of Private Secretary will be filled up amongst the persons who are retired as Private Secretary from the State govt. of Haryana/Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh.

This post will be filled up initially for a period of one year which may be extended upto 5 years on year to year basis or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The pay and emoluments of the incumbent will be paid as per Haryana Govt. Rules in PPL-6. The candidate should not be more than 63 years old as on the day appearing for interview.

It is made clear that such engagement will be purely on contractual basis in nature and can be terminated at any time without assigning any reason or prior notice and the person so engaged shall have no right to claim any benefit of such engagement for any purpose in the office. The selection will be made on the basis of the recommendation of the selection committee.

The term and conditions of appointment shall be decided by the Haryana Real Estate Appellate Tribunal, Chandigarh, subject to be altered and amended by the Tribunal, at its discretion.

Interested candidates may visit the office of Haryana Real Estate Appellate Tribunal SCO No. 50-51, 4th floor Sector 17-A, Chandigarh on 09.04.2025 at 01:00 P.M. to 02:00 P.M. for walk in interview alongwith application, complete Bio-data and all testimonials etc. duly attested.

Registrar
Haryana Real Estate Appellate Tribunal
SCO No. 50-51, 4th Floor, Sector 17-A
Chandigarh

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Tender Reference No. : 05 (SAMB.0 Dated: 1.4.2025)
The Department : Municipal Corporation, Amritsar
Closing Date and Time : Closing Date for NIT No. 05 (SAMB.0 is 8.5.2025 Time upto 5:00 PM
For Detail Login : www.eprocpunjab.gov.in
Note: Any Corrigendum/Addendum shall be published on the above and website only. Reference No. EMPB-61675

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (B&R)
Municipal Corporation, Amritsar

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR STATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIMS)

SECTOR- 56, SAS NAGAR (MOHALI)

No. AIMS/1/[illegible] Dated: [illegible]

Recruitment of Medical Faculty
(On Regular/Deputation Faculty)

Applications are invited online for filling up posts of Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor on Regular/Deputation Basis in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) Sector-56, SAS Nagar (Mohali). The last date of receipt of applications is **23.04.2025** at **5 P.M.** Tentative date of interviews will be informed on website **www.aimsmohali.gov.gov.in** later on.

Sd/-
Director Prof. Cum
AIMS Mohali

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University, U.P.

U.P. State Medical Faculty

Advertisement No.-02 / Entrance-Exam / ABVMU / 2025 Date-02.04.2025

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University (ABVMU), U.P. is conducting U.P. GAM Entrance Test (UPGET-2025) for admission in Child Course for the **Academic Session 2025-26** of all Private Institutions affiliated to **U.P. State Medical Faculty**. Detailed information related to application is available on the websites of ABVMU **https://abvmuup.edu.in** and UPSMF **https://upsmfac.org**.

Start Date of Online Application: 02.04.2025
Last Date of Online Application: 14.05.2025

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA | **SCHOOL EDUCATION**

S.No.	Name of School Name/ Date	Name of work Nature/ Tender	Opening Date/ Closing date (Time)	Earnest Money Amount	Website of the School Corp/ Date	Name Official Contact Details/Email
1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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EMPLOYMENT

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(U/s 8 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Sh. Sukhwinder Singh
Additional
Civil Judge
Senior Div-Cum
Rupnagar
Sohal Singh
VS.
Paramjot Singh
Through his Attorney
Jasvir Singh
CNR NO.
PBRO01-000341-2024
Next Date:
06-05-2025

Publication issued in
Defendant No. 2: Bal's
Kaur
Spouse: Jodh Singh
Village: Bela Majra,
Tehsil: Sri Chamkaur
Sahib, Distt. Rupnagar

In above titled case, the defendant(s) respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s) respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 06-05-2025 at 10:00 a.m.

For Details login to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?/en-district_notice
Sd/-
Additional
Civil Judge
Senior Div-Cum
Rupnagar
Dated: the day of
17-03-2025

Additional District and Session Judge, Sunjar
Date: Sh. Gr 17.03.2025