

NORAD intercepts 5 Russian aircraft near Alaska

Though military says there was no threat

ANACHORAGE, Feb 21 (AP)

MILITARY jets were launched to intercept five Russian aircraft that were flying in international airspace off Alaska's western coast, but military officials said on Friday the Russian aircraft were not seen as provocative.

The North American Aerospace Defence Command said it detected and tracked two Russian Tu-95s, two Su-35s and one A-50 operating near the Bering Strait on Thursday.

In response, NORAD launched two F-16s, two F-35s, one E-3 and four KC-135 refueling tankers to intercept, identify and escort the Russian aircraft until they departed the area, according to a release from the command. "The Russian military aircraft remained in international airspace and did not enter American or Canadian sovereign airspace," according to the NORAD statement. It also noted this kind of activity "occurs regularly and is not seen as a threat."

The Russian aircraft were operating in an



US Department of Defence shows a North American Aerospace Defence Command F-16 fighter aircraft intercepting a Russian Su-35 military aircraft near the Bering Strait, west of Alaska, on Thursday. (AP/PTI)

area near the Bering Strait, a narrow body of water about 50 miles (80 kilometers) wide separating the Pacific and Arctic oceans, called the Alaskan Air Defence Identification Zone.

Such zones begin where sovereign airspace ends. While it's international airspace, all aircraft are required to identify themselves when entering zones in the interest of national security, NORAD said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during a joint press meet, at the Hyderabad House, in New Delhi. (PTI)

India, Brazil set bilateral trade target of over \$20 bn in 5 years

■ Delhi Bureau Agencies
NEW DELHI, Feb 21

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held a joint newsconference with Brazilian President Lula here in the national capital and noted that the discussions between the two leaders aimed at moving forward across all sectors in the spirit of shared purpose and that the nations are committed for bilateral trade to surpass 20 billion USD in the next five years.

He thanked the Brazilian President for his participation in the Global AI Impact Summit, and also praised his visionary leadership in giving a filip to India-Brazil ties.

"I am delighted to welcome President Lula and his delegation to India. India-Brazil relations have long benefited

from President Lula's vision and inspiring leadership.

Over the past few years, I have had the privilege of meeting him seven times, and in each meeting, I have felt his deep friendship and trust in India. President Lula's visit has graced the historic AI Impact Summit and given new energy to our strategic partnership. I express my gratitude to the President for his friendship and commitment to the relationship between our two countries," PM Modi said

Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that Brazil is India's largest trade partner in Latin America.

He further highlighted that the visit of the large business delegation from Brazil is a commitment to this fact and noted that with expansion of India-

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It is a reason of happiness for me to return to this country for 6th time: Brazilian President

NEW DELHI, Feb 21 (ANI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva addressed a joint press conference in the national capital.

Three MoUs were exchanged between the two Government namely -the MoU Joint Declaration On Digital Partnership for Future, the MoU on Cooperation in areas of Rare Earth and Critical Minerals and the MoU for Cooperation in the field of Mining in the Steel Supply Chain.

"My dear friend Modi, it is a reason of happiness for me to return to this country for the sixth time. The meeting between India and Brazil is a meeting of superlatives. We are not just the two biggest democracies of the Global South. This is a meeting of a digital superpower with a renewable energy superpower. We are both mega diverse countries and hubs of the cultural industry and we both defend multilateralism and peace," President Lula da Silva said sharing

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Made in India chip very important for developed nation, says PM Modi

■ The India Chip Pvt. Ltd. plant is designed to process 20,000 wafers per month, translating to an output of roughly 3.6 crore chips monthly

GREATER NOIDA, Feb 21 (PTI)

THE foundation of developed India will be laid on the basis of self-reliance for which having chips made in India is very important, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

In a virtual address to lay the foundation stone of India Chip Pvt Ltd -- the HCL Group and Foxconn JV -- Modi said a weak supply chain

of tiny chips during the COVID-19 pandemic halted development of several economies and stopped work at various factories.

"Developed India will be built only when India is self-reliant. For this, Made in India chip is very important. Whatever India is doing in the field of technology in this decade, it will become foundation of our capability in the 21st century," Modi said.

The India Chip Pvt Ltd -- the HCL Group and Foxconn joint venture for Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly & Test (OSAT) facility -- will come up in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) at Jewar, Greater Noida.

India Chip Pvt Ltd is a 60:40 joint venture between HCL Group and Foxconn. The advanced OSAT facility is expected to be operational by 2028. The company has earmarked an investment of Rs 3,700 crore over the next few years in the facility that will produce display driver chips. The investment is expected to create over 3,500 direct and indirect jobs, build local supply chains, and attract ecosystem partners across the semiconductor value chain.

With a planned capacity to process 20,000 wafers per month, the facility aims to meet India's growing domestic demand for semiconductor components while

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Delhi Declaration: 86 nations back India's 'AI for All' push

Pak, Chip Giant Taiwan Not On List Of Signatories

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New Delhi: The AI Impact Summit concluded here with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration marking the success of the push by India and other countries in the Global South to frame artificial intelligence as a shared global good rather than an exclusive technological advantage of the rich and developed.

Endorsed by 86 countries and two organisations, the declaration sets out a shared global vision for what it calls “collaborative, trusted, resilient and efficient” artificial intelligence, whose potential can be realised only “only when its benefits are shared by humanity” and cautioning that “the choices that we make today will shape the AI-enabled world that future generations will inherit”. Signatories span the AI

India & Brazil sign rare earths treaty as PM meets Lula, will study tariff impact

Piyal Bhattacharjee



PM Modi met Brazilian President Lula Saturday and signed a pact for cooperation on rare earths and critical minerals, bilateral trade target of \$30 billion by 2030 and Global South solidarity in technology. The two also agreed that they needed to study the implications of US SC striking down Trump tariffs. Brazil joined India in condemning cross-border terrorism, including Pahalgam and Red Fort. **P 10**

powerhouses of the US and China as well as other technology leaders like Netherlands, South Korea and the EU. Significantly, Pakistan does not figure on the list. Taiwan, the leading semiconductor manufacturer, appeared to have been left out because of sensitivities of China, which has blocked its presence on international fora.

Rooted in the principle of “Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya” — welfare and happiness for all — a theme PM

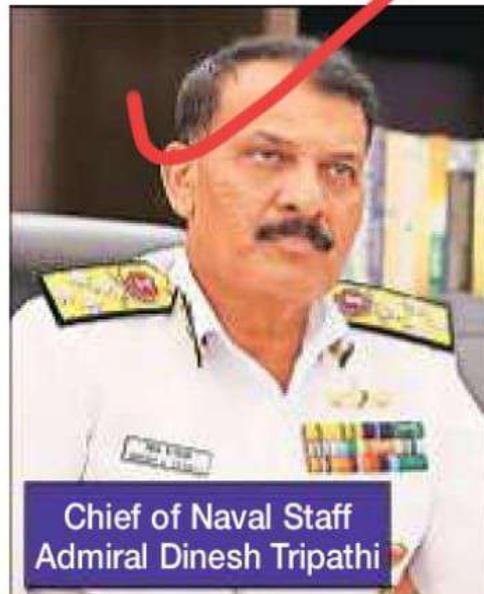
Modi articulated Thursday, the declaration places equity and access at the centre of AI governance, and commits participants to “foster shared understanding, while respecting national sovereignty, on how AI could be made to serve humanity”. For many developing countries, this emphasis addresses long-standing concerns about technology rules being shaped without their participation.

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Navy chief calls for regional unity to tackle evolving maritime threats

PANAJI, Feb 21 (PTI)

CHIEF of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi on Saturday called for greater unity among Indian Ocean Region (IOR) nations to address evolving maritime threats, including piracy, irregular migration and drug trafficking. He said criminal networks at sea have become “more organised, technologically aware and interconnected”, stressing the need for collaborative operations to produce tangible outcomes. Delivering his closing remarks at the fifth edition of the Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) at the Naval War College in Goa, Tripathi said the forum has



evolved from a dialogue-based platform into an action-oriented framework.

The biennial conclave was held

under the theme “Common Maritime Security Challenges in the IOR - Progressing Lines of Efforts (LsoE) to Mitigate Dynamic Threats”.

It was attended by the heads of navies and maritime agencies from 14 participating countries, including Comoros, Kenya, Maldives and Seychelles, as well as delegations from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Thailand.

Highlighting key security concerns, the Navy chief pointed to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing as one of the primary maritime threats.

Trump announces hike in tariffs to 15 per cent on all countries

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI, Feb 21 (PTI)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Saturday announced hike in tariffs on all countries to 15 per cent from 10 per cent, which was imposed a day earlier.

Following a Supreme Court verdict against his earlier sweeping tariffs, Trump on Friday imposed a 10 per cent tariffs on all the countries, including India from February 24 for 150 days.

Commenting on the 10 per cent tariff, the Indian Government on Saturday said it is studying these and their implications. "Based on a thorough, detailed, and complete review of the ridiculous, poorly written, and extraordinarily anti-American decision on Tariffs issued yesterday, after MANY months of contemplation, by the



President Donald Trump speaks during a press briefing at the White House on Friday in Washington. (AP/PTI)

United States Supreme Court, please let this statement serve to represent that I, as President of the United States of America, will be, effective immediately, raising the 10 per cent Worldwide Tariff on Countries, many of

which have been "ripping" the US off for decades, without retribution (until I came along!), to the fully allowed, and legally tested, 15 per cent level. "During the next short number of months, the Trump Administration will determine and issue the new and legally permissible Tariffs, which will continue our extraordinarily successful process of Making America Great Again," he said in a social media post.

In a proclamation titled 'Imposing a Temporary Import Surcharge to Address Fundamental International Payments Problems' dated February 20, Trump said he is imposing, for a period of 150 days, a "temporary import surcharge of 10 per cent ad valorem" on articles imported into the US," effective February 24.

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