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Day 36: Monga is first Indian to fly solo across Bering Sea

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ROUND THE WORLD: Wing Cdr Monga with the Microlight just before taking off on June 1 at the Hindan Air Base near Delhi (TOI Photo)

The IAF Round the World Expedition entered USA around 0345 hrs IST on Friday and in the process, Wing Cdr Rahul Monga became the first Indian to fly solo across the Bering Sea in a microlight aircraft.

Monga took off from Provideniya, Russia around 0300 hrs IST and headed towards Nome in Alaska, USA, a distance of 387 KM. The expedition has decided that they would halt at Nome and the anchorage would not move further as they are behind the itinerary planned earlier.

The expedition is supposed to be flown by a duo that also consists of Wing Cdr Anil Kumar. However, in the Russian leg, since it is mandatory to have a Russian speaking navigator, Kumar, as a co-pilot had to opt out and hop a commercial flight to USA.

The expedition has so far been hamstrung with extremely bad weather encountering typhoons in China and poor visibility in Russia. At some places, the pilots have encountered extreme elements and even continued where bigger aircrafts with far sophisticated gadgets have opted to stay off.

All this has resulted in it being delayed by about 12 days so far. The pilots are expected to make up a few days in due course by skipping some rest days.

The expedition was flagged off on June 1 from the Hindan Air base near Delhi with the aim of completing the expedition in 64 days, which would be a new World Record. Although even now they are on course to a new world record, it may not happen in 64 days, which was originally planned.

[Congratulate Wing Cdr Rahul Monga](#)

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