

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा
A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 42 No. 186 07 September 2017



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय
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Wed, 06 Sep, 2017
(Online)

India's Very Own ATAGS Sets a world record at Pokhran

Setting a worldwide record, India's very own indigenous gun—the first high capacity, long range 155-mm 52 caliber Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) on Monday successfully test-fired a round at about 48 kms of range at Pokhran, official sources in the know told DefenceAviationPost.com.

In comparison, 155-millimetre, 52-calibre guns in service worldwide fires this ammunition to maximum ranges of 40-45 kilometres.

“On Monday, the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System successfully test fired a round at 48 Kms of range at Pokhran... which is perhaps the first time in the history / world,” a senior official confirmed.

Senior officers of the Indian Army and Defence Research & Defence Organisation and from Pune-based Armament Research & Development Establishment (DRDO's ARDE) were present during the trial.

The 155-millimetre, 52-calibre gun-howitzer fired three shells out to a distance of 48 kilometres from the gun position. This was achieved using special, long-range ammunition called “high explosive – base bleed” (HE – BB).

The ATAGS is being developed by DRDO on two parallel tracks – one prototype in partnership with Tata Power (Strategic Engineering Division) and another with Bharat Forge.

“Bharat Forge has developed and delivered the full ordinance for the Tata SED Gun...The ATGAS will be a joint project of two private-sector corporations,” official sources said.

The secret of the ATAGS longer range is its larger chamber – 25 litres, that packs in more high explosive propellant, compared to 23 litres in most 155-millimetre guns like the French Nexter and Israeli Elbit guns the military has evaluated.

A larger chamber packs in more high explosive propellant which shoots out the warhead further.

With the current round of “summer trials” having successfully concluded in Pokhran, the ATAGS will now undergo modifications and prepare for “winter trials” in December, probably in Sikkim.



Thu, 07 Sep, 2017

India, Japan to Work on Robotics

In a joint statement by India and Japan announced last night in Tokyo, both countries have decided to coordinate on robotics and unmanned round vehicles.

Japanese Acquisition, Technology and Logistic Agency (ATLA) and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will soon commence technical discussions for research collaboration on unmanned ground vehicles and robotics.

Japan had, in 2011, famously sent in a robot to tackle the leak at its Fukushima nuclear plant which was hit by a Tsunami triggered by a massive earthquake.

The first-ever meeting on defence industry cooperation was conducted between ATLA and the Department of Defence Production (DDP) of the Ministry of Defence. Government entities and companies of both countries participated in this.

THE ASIAN AGE

Thu, 07 Sep, 2017

India should be ready for two-front war, says Army Chief

The Army Chief said India cannot afford to let its guard down against China.

New Delhi: Army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat on Wednesday said the country should be prepared for a two-front war, insisting China has started “flexing its muscles”, while there seems to be no scope for reconciliation with Pakistan whose military and polity saw an adversary in India.

Referring to the 73-day long Doklam standoff, the Army Chief warned that the situation could gradually snowball into a larger conflict on the northern border.

He said there is a possibility that these conflicts could be limited in space and time or can expand into an all out war along the entire frontier, with Pakistan taking advantage of the situation.

“We have to be prepared. In our context, therefore, warfare lies within the realm of reality,” he said, adding the Army’s supremacy among the three services must be maintained to successfully combat external security threats.

The comments by Gen. Rawat came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on a “forward-looking” approach to Sino-India ties, putting behind the Doklam standoff.

The Army Chief said India cannot afford to let its guard down against China.

“As far as northern adversary is concerned, the flexing of muscle has started. The salami slicing, taking over territory in a very gradual manner, testing our limits of threshold is something we have to be wary about and remain prepared for situations emerging which could gradually emerge into conflict,” he said.

In military parlance salami slicing denotes divide and conquer process of threats and alliances used to overcome opposition.

He was speaking at a seminar organised by the Centre for Land Warfare Studies. The Army Chief also talked about China engaging in a psychological warfare by using the media and information technology against India during the Doklam face-off. The Army Chief rejected the notion that credible deterrence could prevent war and pitched for adequate budgetary allocation for the armed forces.

Talking about Pakistan, Gen. Rawat said there was no scope for any reconciliation with that country.

“As far as our western adversary is considered, we don’t see any scope of reconciliation, because their military, the polity, and the people in that nation have been made to believe that there is an adversary, India, which is all out to break their nation into pieces,” he said.

Gen. Rawat also wondered how long the country will continue to tolerate the proxy war by Pakistan and when it would conclude that Pakistan has crossed the threshold limit, adding the scope of a possible conflict is difficult to predict. He said it was for the political masters to take a call on the issue.

Israel conducts largest military drill

Israel's army began in the country's north what could be the largest military drill in nearly two decades simulating a conflict with the Lebanese Shiite movement of Hezbollah, military sources said. Sounds of live munitions were clear in Lebanon's border villages and towns, where the Israeli air forces participating in the drill violate Lebanese airspace many times, witnesses said on Tuesday.

The drill, according to the Israeli Defence Army, will last 10 days and is meant to simulate scenarios in the next confrontation with Hezbollah, Xinhua news agency reported. The drill involves tens of thousands of soldiers including thousands of reserves, as well as aircraft, boats and submarines, the defence army said. In the meantime, the Lebanese army was put on high alert, while the UN Interim Force in south Lebanon deployed extensive patrol units to monitor the situation.



Wed, 06 Sep, 2017
(Online)

ईरान कर रहा है परमाणु समझौते का उल्लंघन, डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के पास हैं सबूत : निककी हेली

अमेरिकी कानून के तहत विदेश विभाग को हर 90 दिन में कांग्रेस को यह सूचना देनी होती है कि ईरान परमाणु समझौते का पालन कर रहा है या नहीं।

नई दिल्ली: संयुक्त राष्ट्र में अमेरिका की शीर्ष राजदूत निककी हेली ने कहा कि राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के पास इस बात की घोषणा करने के सबूत हैं कि ईरान विश्व शक्तियों के साथ 2015 में हुए परमाणु समझौते का उल्लंघन कर रहा है. ओबामा प्रशासन के दौरान अमेरिका, ईरान, चीन, रूस, फ्रांस, जर्मनी और ब्रिटेन के बीच जुलाई 2015 में हुए इस समझौते में ईरान को वैश्विक प्रतिबंधों से राहत के बदले में अपनी परमाणु गतिविधियों पर लगाम लगाना अनिवार्य है. अमेरिकी कानून के तहत विदेश विभाग को हर 90 दिन में कांग्रेस को यह सूचना देनी होती है कि ईरान परमाणु समझौते का पालन कर रहा है या नहीं. इसकी अगली समय सीमा अक्टूबर है.

हेली ने कहा, ' मैं मामले को अप्रमाणिक नहीं बना रही हूं. मैं कह रही हूं कि उन्होंने इसे खत्म करने का फैसला किया है. उनके पास अपनी बात के सबूत हैं.' उन्होंने कहा कि उन्हें नहीं पता कि ट्रंप की अगले महीने क्या करने की योजना है जब वह कांग्रेस को इस बात की जानकारी देंगे कि क्या ईरान समझौते का पालन कर रहा है. लेकिन उन्होंने ऐसा संकेत दिया कि ट्रंप यह घोषणा कर सकते हैं कि ईरान समझौते का उल्लंघन कर रहा है.

हेली ने कहा, 'हमें परमाणु कार्यक्रम के बारे में उसके धोखा देने वाले इतिहास पर विचार करना चाहिए .हमें बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल प्रौद्योगिकी को लेकर चल रहे घटनाक्रमों पर विचार करना चाहिए.' हेली ने चेताया कि अगर अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय ईरान की गतिविधि पर ध्यान ना देना जारी रखता है और सिर्फ यह कहता है कि 'हम बाद में निपटेंगे' तो उन्हें अगले उत्तर कोरिया से निपटना पड़ेगा क्योंकि वे उन्हें आधुनिक तकनीक विकसित करना जारी रखने की अनुमति दे रहे हैं.



Thu, 07 Sep, 2017

Boron discovery shows Mars was once habitable, finds study

Scientists have discovered boron on Mars, a finding that gives further support to the theory that the ancient red planet may have once been habitable. RNA (ribonucleic acid) is present in all modern life, but scientists have long hypothesized an “RNA World,” where the first proto-life was made of individual RNA strands that both contained genetic information and could copy itself. A key ingredient of RNA is a sugar called ribose. But sugars are notoriously unstable; they decompose quickly in water.

The ribose would need another element there to stabilize it. That's where boron comes in. When boron is dissolved in water - becoming borate - it will react with the ribose and stabilize it for long enough to make RNA. “Because borates may play an important role in making RNA - one of the building blocks of life - finding boron on Mars further opens the possibility that life could have once arisen on the planet,” said Patrick Gasda, a postdoctoral researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory in the US.

“We detected borates in a crater on Mars that's 3.8 billion years old, younger than the likely formation of life on Earth,” said Gasda. “Essentially, this tells us that the conditions from which life could have potentially grown may have existed on ancient Mars, independent from Earth,” he said. The boron found on Mars was discovered in calcium sulfate mineral veins, meaning the boron was present in Mars groundwater, and provides another indication that some of the groundwater in Gale Cater was habitable, ranging between 0-60 degrees Celsius and with neutral-to alkaline pH.

The boron was identified by the rover's laser-shooting ChemCam (Chemistry and Camera) instrument, which was developed at Los Alamos National Laboratory in conjunction with the French space agency. The discovery of boron is only one of several recent findings related to the composition of Martian rocks. Curiosity is climbing a layered Martian mountain and finding chemical evidence of how ancient lakes and wet underground environments changed, billions of years ago, in ways that affected their potential favorability for microbial life.