

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा  
A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 42 No. 13 13 January 2018



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# We have to do our job: Army chief

By Dinakar Peri

*General Bipin Rawat says it is premature to say U.S. action against Pakistan will help India*

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat, said here on Friday that it would be premature to say the suspension of aid by the U.S. to Pakistan would tip the balance in favour of India.

“It would be premature to say that everything is going to be in our favour, and the U.S. will do our job vis-à-vis Pakistan. We have to do our own job,” Gen. Rawat said at the annual press conference ahead of Army Day, January 15.

Last week, the U.S. suspended all security assistance to Pakistan until it “takes decisive action against groups, including the Afghan Taliban and the Haqqani Network”.

## Ceasefire situation

Gen. Rawat said Pakistan did not want the situation along the Line of Control to escalate; so it was calling for a ceasefire. “If a task is given to us, we cannot say we will not cross the border because they [Pakistan] have nuclear weapons. We have to call their bluff,” he said.

Gen. Rawat called for a multi-pronged approach to deal with an assertive China, including diplomatic and military efforts, besides partnerships with other countries in the region. “We understand China is a powerful country, but we are not a weak nation ... We are looking at the whole of government approach which is — diplomatic and military — and partnering with other countries ... Diplomatic engagement with China is happening very well ... Focus has to shift to the northern borders, for too long we have focused on western borders,” he said.

He stressed the importance of the neighbourhood as part of efforts to build partnerships with like-minded countries. “We are not getting into alliances, but we are seeking the support of the other group of nations in the region so that we are not isolated against an assertive China ... One important aspect of it is our neighbourhood. We cannot let our neighbourhood drift away from us.”

At the same time, he said, the country should start preparing for the next kind of warfare which would be cyber and information.

## Pressure on border

Admitting that China was mounting pressure on the border, Gen. Rawat said India was prepared to deal with any situation and troops had been earmarked.

He said China had been constructing roads for many years in North Doklam, which is caught in a dispute between Bhutan and China. “With China, we have an agreement not to change status quo ... This was a change of status quo by bringing the road down, so we intervened.”

While temporary structures remained, there was a visible reduction in the number of troops recently either because of the winter or China wanted to de-escalate. “They may come back here after winter or somewhere else. Should they come again, we will see what to do,” he said.

Gen. Rawat said diplomatic efforts were under way and border demarcation talks were on between Bhutan and China.

## Schools corrupted

On the radicalisation of the youth in Kashmir, Gen. Rawat said schools played a major part in the situation, besides social media, and called for a major revamp of the education system.

“The grassroots problem is here. The education system in government schools in Jammu and Kashmir has been corrupted. The teachers were also brought up in the same system,” the Army chief said.

With the government imposing a cap of Rs. 10,000 a year on tuition fees for children of the disabled soldiers and those killed in line of duty, the Army decided to set up schools, he said.



Sat, 13 Jan, 2018

## **Bibi’s India trip may revive missile deal**

### *Agri, Cyber Pacts on Agenda*

New Delhi: India-Israel ties are “irreversible”, Israeli envoy Daniel Carmon said in the run-up to the first visit to India by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, starting Sunday evening, during which the two countries are expected to “enrich the content” of their already deep bilateral relations with agreements in areas as diverse as defence, agriculture, cyber and people-to-people contacts.

Netanyahu’s visit comes after India voted in the UN against US’ decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem, a vote Israel wanted otherwise. In addition, the defence ministry last week announced cancellation of a deal for Spike anti-tank missiles, a decision that was judged to be most ill-timed. Both sides have worked to undo the potential damage of these developments. When asked, MEA senior official Bala Bhaskar said, “Our policy is not influenced by any third country... our policy is independent.”

Recent reports said India is reconsidering the Spike cancellation. Carmon said the Spike project is an example of “Israeli company engaging in Make in India” because it can be implemented through partnership. “A plant that is ready to use, inaugurated a few months ago and I saw the production line in Hyderabad. It is a contribution to the Indian economy. If there is a problem, I hope it will be solved,” he said.

Netanyahu will be flying in with a 130-member business delegation as well as top officials from the Israel Innovation Authority and Israel’s National Trade Commission. Innovation is the new sauce in the bilateral mix which will be seen not only through the meetings between Israeli and Indian start-ups, but also the inauguration of iCreate, an innovation hub in Gujarat.

Netanyahu will spend a day in Ahmedabad, a sort of personal day out with PM Narendra Modi, including a visit to Gandhi Ashram. Israel will inaugurate the 22nd centre of excellence in agriculture to coincide with Netanyahu’s visit and completion of 25 years’ celebrations of diplomatic relations.

Carmon said a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is “on the agenda” but acknowledged that the two countries had different priorities despite the fact that there were so many “complementarities” between India and Israel.

The official component of the visit will be completed on Monday with all the pomp of a state visit. The MEA said Modi and Netanyahu will hold talks to deepen the “very very special relationship”. “... We want to take it to a higher level,” said Bhaskar. On Tuesday, Netanyahu will deliver the keynote address at the Raisina Dialogue.

On January 15, Netanyahu will meet the Indo-Israeli CEO forum here and address a separate business event. Carmon said the visit will focus on the progress made between India and Israel since Modi’s visit to Israel last summer.

## Gearing Up for any Threat from China

*Army Stepping Up Cyber Security*

*By Shaurya.Gurung*

New Delhi: The Indian Army is strengthening its cyber and information warfare capabilities against China, as it believes this will be the next theatre of operation, besides fighting battles in the mountains along the Line of Actual Control in a conflict with the country. At the military level, India is preparing for any threat emerging from China, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said, addressing reporters here ahead of Army Day, which is to be celebrated on Monday.

“We are focussing on information and cyber warfare capabilities. We are more concerned about these fields than on fighting at border. We are trying to ensure that there are good firewalls and the capability of handling them,” General Rawat said.

On being asked how cyber threats emerging from China were being addressed, he said the Army’s focus was on securing its information and networks. “We have to also ensure that we have alternate options,” he added.

Other focus areas of the Army when dealing with China include speeding up infrastructure development and the setting up of certain systems along the northern borders.

## Business Standard

## Chinese troops remain in Doklam, says army chief General Bipin Rawat

*In negotiated settlement last year, Indians withdrew from disputed area*

*By Ajai Shukla*

In New Delhi on Friday, army chief General Bipin Rawat provided the first authoritative account of a globally watched 73-day confrontation last year when India and China almost came to blows. The faceoff between several hundred armed soldiers from China and India took place at Doklam – an 89 square kilometre patch of land that is claimed by both China and Bhutan.

The face-off began on June 16, when Indian troops moved in strength into Doklam –territory that it did not own or claim – to block a large team of Chinese construction workers, escorted by troops of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), who began extending a track partly built during previous years. After weeks of tension, the crisis de-escalated on August 28 after tough negotiations between New Delhi and Beijing.

With both governments non-committal, analysts on both sides claimed victory – that they had forced the other side to withdraw. But today, Rawat admitted that Indian troops withdrew to their side of the border, while the PLA remains in Doklam. Rawat’s verbatim account, with editors’ notes in brackets, is as follows. “Doklam is an area that is divided into two parts: North Doklam and South Doklam.



***This map of the Doklam area was released by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs last June, while making out their case against India's intervention "So hereinafter, what happened is that the China have stayed put in that area... The disengagement said that we should not have a face-to-face confrontation, because here we were face-to-face.***

The Torsa nallah separates the two (green line on map, flowing left to right in Dong Lang, the Chinese name for Doklam). In South Doklam is a ridge called the Jampheri ridge, where the Royal Bhutan Army maintains a seasonal post. This is at the southern extremity of Doklam.

“As far as Northern Doklam is concerned, there are three passes... Through these passes, specifically through a pass called Batang La, the Chinese had been building a road since 2000... a little before. Till June 2016, they had come in quite close to our area and to the Torsa Nala. They would come, build a road and go back.“But one fine day last year the Chinese came with fairly large amount of equipment, large amount of people, supported by the PLA.

Up to June 2016 there was fairly inconspicuous activity – one or two bulldozers that would scrape the earth and go away. But this time we found that the kind of equipment and manpower they came with, they meant business. We felt they would probably try and claim the whole of Doklam and build a road there, and probably reach where the RBA post was [at Jampheri]. That was our impression.

“We realised that if this was going to happen, we would have to block it. This was posing a threat to us and was changing the status quo... and violating our agreement with the Chinese to maintain the status quo. So

we were compelled to take action and block them. That led to a stalemate, which continued [for 73 days].” “[After the negotiated disengagement of August 28] the PLA has occupied Northern Doklam. They are there...” “During the Doklam crisis, let me tell you we had excellent coordination with the government; I daresay between the PMO, the ministry of external affairs (MEA), the ministry of defence and the army.” “The issue was that we had actually stepped into territory that wasn’t ours.

And when you step into a territory which is not yours, the MEA comes in. It is not that you have stepped into your territory, but into territory which either belonged to China or to Bhutan. It didn’t belong to us

. We said we should separate out. That separation has taken place. “We have come back from where we had stepped in, [and returned] to our own territory. We are now on the watershed. And the Chinese too have gone back that much distance. But behind that, they have continued to maintain themselves.

“When this [Doklam] escalation took place, we saw a large number of [Chinese] troops in other areas of Tibet, including some guns and some tanks and other equipment. But let me tell you that we have seen that complete equipment almost gone. But as far as the North Doklam area is concerned... the Chinese are there.” “But there too, thinning out has happened. We had worked out in the disengagement that we would keep the separation between us. But even behind that, while there are a large number of tents in that area, a large amount of troops have gone back from that area. We are not seeing the kind of activity that we were seeing in that area in the month of June, July and August.” “The tents remain.

He (the Chinese) had constructed some toilets and those toilets remain. He had created some observation posts... and those structures remain. But we are seeing a reduction in manpower.” “As of now, we feel the de-escalation has happened because of the winter months, maybe; or because he felt it was time to de-escalate. But because the structures are still there – he has a lot of temporary structures – there is a possibility of movement again taking place once the winter months get over.” “Should he come in again, we will again take a call on what has to be done. But let me tell you diplomatic efforts are on to de-escalate everything and see that everything returns to normalcy.

“More important now is the engagement between Bhutan and China, and how they resolve the issue. There are border demarcation talks also happening between Bhutan and China. How they progress, we will have to wait and watch.”



Sat, 13 Jan, 2018

## **ISRO workhorse PSLV-C40 puts 31 satellites in space**

*By Deepu Sebastian Edmond*

*Focus on building capacity to meet country’s needs*

The 42nd Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), PSLV-C40, was launched successfully on Friday by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from the First Launch Pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota and it placed 31 satellites across two orbits.

The PSLV, launched at 9.29 a.m., had as its primary payload the country's fourth satellite in the remote sensing Cartosat-2 series, weighing 710 kg. The 30 other co-passenger smaller satellites, together weigh 613 kg. Of them, 28 are from other countries.

The Cartosat-2, whose imagery will be used to develop various land and geographical information system applications, was placed in a circular polar sun synchronous orbit 505 km from the Earth. The satellite's design life is five years.

**Two technology demonstrators**

It is the two other Indian satellites in the payload that have generated much excitement. Both are called technology demonstrators, indicating significant strides in miniaturisation.

Of the two, one is a microsatellite of the 100 kg class. "This is a technology demonstrator and the forerunner for future satellites of this series," the ISRO said.

The other one, a nanosatellite, named Indian Nano Satellite (INS) - 1C, is the third in its series; its predecessors were part of the PSLV-C37 launch of February 2017. The INS-1C, whose mission life is six months, carries the Miniature Multispectral Technology Demonstration payload from the Space Applications Centre. "With a capability to carry up to 3 kg of payload and a total satellite mass of 11 kg, it offers immense opportunities for future use," the ISRO said.

Of the 28 foreign satellites, launched as part of deals made by ISRO's commercial arm Antrix Corporation Limited, three were microsatellites and 25 nanosatellites. There were 19 satellites from the United States and five from South Korea. The United Kingdom, France, Canada and Finland had a satellite each.

The CMD of Antrix had told *The Hindu* that the PSLV carried three important proof-of-concept microsats.

The ISRO had seen its launch of August 31, 2017 being recorded as a failure. The heat shield of PSLV-C39 did not separate, resulting in satellite separation occurring within the shield. It was only the second total failure of the PSLV in nearly 24 years: the PSLV-D1, in its maiden flight, failed on September 20, 1993.



Sat, 13 Jan, 2018

## Chandrayaan-2 mission on schedule: ISRO

The Indian Space Research Organisation today said the Chandrayaan-2 mission is on schedule and flight models are undergoing various tests. In Chandrayaan-2, the country's second mission to the moon, ISRO is planning to rover to explore the lunar surface. "It is on schedule. We have to find out whether it is in March or not," ISRO Chairman A S Kiran Kumar told presspersons here in response to a question.

Speaking after the successful orbiting of 31 satellites, including weather observation Cartosat-2 Series craft, by the PSLV-C40, he said the Chandrayaan-II satellite was getting ready at the ISRO Satellite Centre. The flight models were going through various levels of tests, he added. It would comprise an orbiter, lander and six-wheeled rover, which would move around the landing site and instruments on it would send back data that would be useful in analysing the lunar soil.

After reaching the lunar orbit, the lander housing the rover would separate from the orbiter. After a controlled descent, the lander would soft land on the lunar surface at a specified site and deploy the rover.

Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu, S Somanath, said tests related to Chandrayaan-II were underway at the centre also. What we are trying to do is to prove the ability to do a soft landing (the rover). Tests are on to demonstrate soft landing in a simulated way," he said.

Terming it as a "wonderful task", he said "we are trying to complete it in a short span of time and that is going on right now". To a query on whether there was possibility of ISRO carrying out a manned space mission, Kumar said, "The possibility was always there for taking up such a mission but the government has to decide by giving resources."

On the future launches to be taken up by ISRO in 2018, Kumar said the next launch would be a communication satellite. The GSLV-MkII first stage had been assembled and had completed integration. "They are going through process and it is targeted sometime next month (for launch)," he said. Beyond that, there would be MkIII and another PSLV, which would carry navigation satellite IRNSS-1I.

“We also have a number of launches, almost every month one launch, and we are going to work towards that,” Kumar, who is retiring later this month, said. “We are trying to push the launch envelope to such an extent so that we have three of GSLV category and nine of PSLV category (this year). It is still quite a tough task,” he said.

Referring to the unsuccessful launch of IRNSS-1H on August 31 last year, he said it was a peculiar case. “Very marginal deviation created a problem. Notwithstanding that, what we did is we went through a rigorous process of analysing and have made the system more robust,” the ISRO chief said.

Kumar said a team was formed to identify the cause of the incident. Various simulations and review processes were undertaken by the scientists. “Each time you encounter a problem, you come out of it. You need not worry about failure. If you have not failed, it means you have not tried hard enough. So, we need not worry about setbacks,” he said.

Kumar said launch vehicle technology was complex and in spite of hundreds of successes, there can still be a failure. “That is why it is called as risky business. So what we need to clearly understand is to each time make the system more and more robust, learn the deficiencies and keep improving”, he added.

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) Director K Sivan, who has been named Kumar's successor, termed as ‘excellent’ today’s launch and credited the entire ISRO team for the success. He also noted that many international customers had approached the ISRO for the launch immediately after the PSLV-C39's failure, and it showed the confidence they had in the agency’s workhorse launch vehicle. “We will be definitely meeting their expectations in the future also. This mission is definitely showing the green flag for the exciting high-profile missions in 2018 such as the Chandryaan 2, GSLV mk 3 then GSAT-11,” he said.

Director of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, P Kunhikrishnan, lauded ISRO scientists for opening the year with a success. This mission proved the effectiveness of all corrective measures taken in PSLV C-40 “making the vehicle more robust and reliable,” he said. Multiple projects were underway at the spaceport to ramp up ISRO’s launch capabilities. The second vehicle assembly building project was in the final phase of completion and it would meet launch requirements from the second launch pad, he said.