

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

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Sun, 16 Apr, 2017

## Army Chief holds talks with Guv on Kashmir

The Army chief, General Bipin Rawat, called on the Governor NN Vohra here today and discussed the unpredictable situation in the Kashmir valley. During their hourlong meeting, the Governor and the Army chief discussed the external security environment and issues relating to effective internal security management, an official spokesman said. They also discussed the varied opportunities which need to be provided to the youth for assuring them a stable and bright future.

The visit of the Army chief comes immediately after the election related violence in Kashmir where eight persons were killed in police firing. Incidents of manhandling of security force personnel have also surfaced. A vide of a civilian having been tied in front of an army vehicle on the day of bypoll on April 9 to escape stone pelting has anguished the leadership of J&K.

Sun, 16 Apr, 2017

## Pak does not have power to fight back: Parrikar

*His comments come against the backdrop of the death sentence given by a Pak tribunal to Jadhav*

Former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar on Saturday dismissed Pakistan as an empty vessel making noise and said the neighbouring country is up to something or the other to remain engaged. His comments come against the backdrop of the death sentence given by a Pakistani military court to Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Indian Navy official. "There is a proverb in Konkani, and Hindi as well which means empty vessels make the most noise. We should not take much note of what they (Pakistan) say,"

Parrikar said during an interview responding to a question on Pakistan. "Pakistan wants some or other reason to remain engaged. It is playing a dangerous game. It should understand that if India starts retaliating, then Pakistan does not have the power to fight back, whatever they may project themselves as." "But we want peace, we don't want provocation, because of which they should give back Jadhav.

First of all he has been abducted. He was not in Pakistan. He was in Iran. Iran has said that Taliban kidnapped him and took him to Pakistan. Pakistan has a habit of doing something or other," the BJP leader said. "About Jadhav, I can only say that, for what Pakistan is going to do...for that Sushma Swaraj (External Affairs minister) has given an apt reply. We will not keep quiet. Country will do what is required to do. We can take care of Pakistan if it tries to do anything ill-advised," he said. "They were talking of nuclear power usage which they have stopped after surgical strikes. I hope they have understood that they cannot blackmail us as India has the power to counter them," he added. The ex-Defence minister who is now back in Goa as the Chief Minister after the recent assembly polls, said India achieved many things under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. Referring to relations with neighbouring countries like Pakistan and China, Parrikar said, "There was soft diplomacy and also there was use of hard power.

This has happened for the first time." Parrikar said during his tenure as Defence Minister, several measures were adopted to increase the military strength of the country. "I can say that we were able to bring potency to the potential of the Armed forces. If you see the CAG report of 2013 they have pointed out that 121 type of ammunition had stock of less than ten days. Now I can say that number has been reduced to 20-22. In next one or two years, it will be almost zero," he said. "Finally Army works on ammunition. If anyone asks me what was the gap in capability on the parameter of 100 and how much have you reduced it, I can say I have reduced it up to 75-80," he said. "Some things have already been acquired and some are ordered and will be arriving in

next one year,” Parrikar said. “I transferred all my revenue power to the Armed forces and asked them to bridge the gap in building the capability. When I left, the Armed forces had completed deals worth Rs 25,000-30,000 crore that too in eight per cent less cost. We saved Rs 22,000 crore through that. This is because we took quick decisions,” he stated.



Sun, 16 Apr, 2017

## Kim goes ballistic

*North Korean dictator threatens ‘nuclear justice’ as he shows off new missiles and submarine arsenal at Day of the Sun parade*

North Korea leader Kim Jong-un gleefully applauded as he watched a display of the country’s military might during the secretive state’s Day of the Sun — and his regime warned of an ‘annihilating strike’ if the US attacks. Kim, wearing a Western-style suit at Kim Il-sung Square, saluted formations of soldiers who yelled out ‘long live’ to celebrate the 105th anniversary of his grandfather’s birth. The dictator has accused President Donald Trump of provoking his nation towards armed conflict with a series of increasingly aggressive moves, including sending the USS Carl Vinson to the Korean peninsula.

US officials feared Kim Jong-un would mark the national holiday by launching North Korea’s sixth nuclear weapons test, since the country has used previous holidays to showcase its military prowess. The despot, who did not speak during the annual parade, flaunted prototypes of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), which experts fear could one day be capable of striking mainland America. One of Kim’s top officials, Choe Ryong Hae, today vowed North Korea would ‘beat down enemies with the power of nuclear justice’.

He told the packed-out square: ‘If the United States wages reckless provocation against us, our revolutionary power will instantly counter with annihilating strike, and we will respond to full-out war with full-out war and to nuclear war with our style of nuclear strike warfare.’ Submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) were also among the sophisticated military hardware on show for the first time, indicating an improving technological capability that could help it evade anti-missile systems.

A total of 56 missiles of 10 different types were displayed, culminating in enormous rockets on articulated trailers and on 16-wheeler vehicles. Single-engine propeller-powered planes flew in a 105 formation overhead. Unlike previous parades attended by Kim, there did not appear to be a senior Chinese official in attendance, Reuters observed.

China is North Korea’s lone major ally, but has spoken out against its missile and nuclear tests and has supported UN sanctions. China yesterday again called for talks to defuse the escalation in tensions. Some detachments carried assault rifles or rocket-propelled grenades, others were equipped with night-vision goggles and daubed in face paint. One troupe was made up of sword-wielding women. The nuclear-armed North is under United Nations sanctions over its weapons programmes, and has ambitions to build a rocket capable of delivering a warhead to the US mainland — something Trump has vowed ‘won’t happen’. Tensions between the US and North Korea have been mounting in recent weeks, and yesterday Pyongyang issued a series of menacing threats to ‘ravage’ US troops and ‘go to war if they choose’. China warned the region could go to war ‘at any moment’. US President Donald Trump is monitoring the emerging crisis from his Mar-a-Lago resort this weekend without the company of his top advisers.

North Korean state television showed Kim, wearing a black suit and white shirt, stepping out of a black limousine. He saluted his honour guard before walking down a red carpet to a podium and clapped with senior government officials to address the massive crowd taking part in the parade. — Daily Mail

## China seeks Russia's help to calm N Korea down

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**

BEIJING, 15 APRIL

China is seeking Russia's help to cool surging tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, the country's foreign minister has told his Moscow counterpart, after Beijing warned of possible conflict over North Korea.

Fears over the North's rogue weapons programme have soared in recent days, with a US naval strike force deployed

near the Korean peninsula, while Trump has warned the threat

“will be taken care of” and Pyongyang has vowed a “merciless” response to any provocation.

China - North's sole major ally and economic lifeline - yesterday warned that war over North Korea could break out “at any moment”.

In a call with Sergei Lavrov late yesterday, Wang Yi said the common goal of the two nations was to “bring all the parties back

to the negotiating table”, according to a statement on China's Foreign Ministry website.

“China is ready to coordinate closely with Russia to help cool down as quickly as possible the situation on the peninsula and encourage the parties concerned to resume dialogue,” Wang told Lavrov, referring to the stalled six-party talks on the North's nuclear programme that includes Russia, China and the United States.



## IISc makes two potent molecules to fight TB

By R. Prasad

*The molecules inhibit stress response pathway of mycobacteria*

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru have developed two new, potent molecules that can severely impact the survival of mycobacteria, including *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that causes TB. The results were published in the journal *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*.

Unlike most antibiotics that target the bacterial metabolism by aiming at the cellular components, the novel molecules inhibit the stress response pathway of mycobacteria. The stress response pathway is crucial for bacteria to survive during hostile conditions such as lack of nutrients and the presence of antibiotics, to name a few. So any inhibition of this pathway will lead to its death.

The master regulator of stress pathway in the case of mycobacteria is (p)ppGpp (Guanosine pentaphosphate or Guanosine tetraphosphate). Though a molecule that inhibits the (p)ppGpp formation has already been synthesised, the efficacy is not much. “Very high concentration of Relacin molecule is needed to inhibit the pathway and, therefore, the efficacy is low. So we synthesised two new molecules — acetylated compound (AC compound) and acetylated benzoylated compound (AB compound) — by bringing about a modification in the base of the Relacin molecule,” says Prof. Dipankar Chatterji from the Division of Biological Sciences, IISc and the corresponding author of the paper.

“We found both the molecules to be very good inhibitors of stress response. The two compounds affected the rate of synthesis of (p)ppGpp and also reduced the cell survival,” he says. Laboratory studies showed that the two molecules were not toxic to human cells and were able to penetrate the human lung epithelial cells.

“We found our compounds were targeting the Rel gene. The Rel gene makes Rel protein, which in turn synthesises (p)ppGpp. When the Rel gene is knocked out, the long-term survival of *Mycobacterium smegmatis* decreases,” says Prof. Chatterji.

“The Alarmone molecule “(p)ppgpp”, a modified nucleotide, is ubiquitous in bacteria and absent in humans. Inhibiting (p)ppgpp synthesis would specifically target the survival of bacteria without having any effects on humans,” says Dr. Kirtimaan Syal from the Division of Biological Sciences, IISc and the first author of the paper.

Earlier studies have shown that when the rel gene is deleted, the long-term survival ability under stress was lost; the *M. tuberculosis* bacteria was unable to persist in mice and unable to form tubercle lesions in guinea pigs.

“The major reason for prolonged treatment of TB is the bacterium’s ability to persist in dormant form, which is tolerant to most antibiotics used in the treatment regimen. So inhibition of (p)ppGpp-mediated persistence could help in shortening the treatment regime, dealing with the emergence of multiple drug resistance and treatment of chronic infections, Dr. Syal says.

### **Inhibiting biofilm**

Under hostile conditions, bacteria tend to form biofilms, which protect the bacteria from stress and induce tolerance to antibiotics. Recent studies have shown that tuberculosis bacteria that cannot form a biofilm cannot survive inside the host. Evidences have shown that at the time of infection, the *M. tuberculosis* display a biofilm-like phenotype and this helps the bacteria to survive inside the host.

Both *M. tuberculosis* and *M. smegmatis* that do have the Rel gene cannot form a biofilm.

Studies carried out by the researchers showed that both the molecules were able to inhibit biofilm formation by *M. tuberculosis* and *M. smegmatis* and also disrupt the already formed biofilm. “The biofilm formed by TB bacteria is very dangerous. The ability of the molecules to destroy the biofilm and even prevent its formation is a very important achievement,” says Prof. Chatterji.

Since there are very few antibiotics that target the stress response pathway of the bacteria, the two molecules offer great promise. “The next step is to test the molecules on animals. We have not thought about it. It will also be interesting to see if the bacteria develop resistance against these molecules,” Prof. Chatterji says.