

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.