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(Online)

Advanced artillery gun passes user trials in deserts: DRDO

Pune: The country's first fully integrated Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), being developed by the Defence Research and Developed Organisation (DRDO), has successfully completed user assisted technical trials for desert terrain at the Pokhran firing range in Rajasthan.

P K Mehta, DRDO's director general for armament and combat engineering system, told TOI on Wednesday, "We have achieved the desired results in the user assisted trials and the gun is now poised for further trials (for other terrains) in the coming months."

The trials in the deserts were carried out by DRDO scientists and the Indian Army's director general for artillery from August 24 to September 7. A large number of extended range full bore artillery ammunitions were successfully fired from the gun during the trials.

Project director S V Gade of the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) in Pune, who anchored the trials, said, "The users (Indian Army) fired all type of ammunitions and achieved the desired range and consistency for the live ammunition. In fact, the gun successfully hit a target at 48km distance. No other contemporary artillery guns are able to achieve a range of more than 40km so far." The ATAGS is capable of firing a Bi-Modular Charge System (BMCS) Zone 7 propellant, which no other country is able to fire as on date, he added.

Gade said, "We have also validated firing table in a limited way of the gun, which was very crucial task for us."

The ATAGS has an all-electric drive which gives advantage over traditional hydraulic drives which exists in other towed guns. The electric drives of the ATAGS gives controls in handling ammunition, opening and closing the breech mech. and ramming the round into firing chamber, Gade added.

"The gun will undergo refinements and will be ready for high altitude trials which are likely to be conducted at Sikkim in December, depending on a confirmation from the army authorities," Gade said. The gun is expected to be inducted in the Indian Army by 2020, sources in DRDO said.



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Nirmala Sitharaman chairs first DAC, clears sonars, missiles for Navy

These sonars are designed, developed and manufactured indigenously by the DRDO and the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory, Kochi.

Chairing her first Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday cleared two projects related to the Indian Navy. One of them includes the purchase of indigenous sonars worth Rs 200 crore for naval ships.

"It will provide a significant boost to the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities," a statement said.

The upgraded sonars will be fitted to the Navy's destroyers and frigates, Defence Ministry officials told news agency IANS.

These sonars are designed, developed and manufactured indigenously by the DRDO and the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory, Kochi.

The DAC also cleared procurement of missiles for replenishing the naval inventory.

Sitharaman also reviewed the status of the Capital Acquisition Schemes and directed that the schemes are to be meticulously monitored and brought to maturity within stipulated timelines.

She said that holding DAC meets fortnightly will enable speeding up the process of capability development of the armed forces.



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Indian Navy Destroyers, Frigates to Get Locally-made Anti-Submarine SONARs

India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved an INR200 crore (US\$33 M) procurement of upgraded SONARs for its Navy destroyers and frigates. ; These SONARs are designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory, Kochi and will boost the Navy's anti submarine warfare capabilities.

The DAC additionally cleared procurement of missiles for replenishing the naval inventory.

This is the first DAC meeting being chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman after taking over the reins of the MoD. The DAC is the supreme body within India's MoD for overseeing procurement matters.

The minister has ordered that the DAC meetings be once in a fortnight to enable speeding up the process of capability development of the armed forces, an official release said.



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(Online)

'Universities should research on defence technology'

DRDO director says at 38th Foundation Day of Mluru varsity

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Solid State Physics Laboratory (SSPL) director Dr Rajesh K Sharma called upon universities to contribute to the defence sector by carrying out research works in the field.

He was delivering the 38th Foundation Day lecture at Mangala Auditorium in Mangalagangothri on Wednesday.

Dr Sharma felt that the universities should reach the technology readiness levels and also venture into more strategic areas. Universities like Mangalore University should interact with national laboratories and focus on the researches pertaining to the sophisticated materials for defence applications.

He pointed out that not many universities have been utilising the DRDO funds meant for the same.

Claiming that the SSPL will be the first-of-its-kind laboratory in the world, Dr Sharma said that national laboratories like SSPL have been concerned with academia and industries. “Connections are being established with them so as to take the defence technology to a new level. DRDO is also active in the research towards Biological warfare protection. Terahertz technology, Quantum computing and Qubit area would be the future preferences of DRDO,” he said.

“India contributes a significant percentage of GDP to defence research. However, it is less compared to countries like South Korea and USA,” he added.

Presiding over the programme, Mangalore University vice chancellor Prof K Byrappa said that the youth should not waste their time but instead utilise it towards gaining knowledge. This is the age of learning, he said and added that the current aim of Mangalore University is to touch the H-index of 70, which is 59 at present. Achievers honoured

Music composer Gurukiran, writer Na Da Shetty, film actor Vinaya Prakash, film director Ramachandra P N, international-level athlete Rohith Kumar Kateel, artist Vilas Nayak and Rio Olympian Ayya Dharun were felicitated on the occasion. Non-teaching staff of the university performed a Yakshagana episode ‘Sri Rama Darshana’ in the afternoon.