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## India's ATAGS Howitzer Now Capable of Striking Lahore from Amritsar

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India's homegrown Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) has demonstrated the capability to strike deep targets across the border, including key locations like Lahore, from positions near Amritsar. With a verified range exceeding 48 kilometers, the long-range howitzer is now seen as a significant addition to India's artillery arsenal.

Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with Bharat Forge and Tata Advanced Systems, ATAGS is a 155mm, 52-caliber towed howitzer that has set records for its range. During trials, it achieved a firing distance of over 48 kilometers using extended-range full-bore base bleed (ERFB-BB) ammunition.

The strategic implication is substantial. The straight-line distance from Amritsar to Lahore is about 28 kilometers, making key Pakistani locations well within ATAGS' firing range. Reports suggest that with the development of next-generation ramjet-propelled projectiles, the system could soon exceed ranges of 60 kilometers.

Key features that distinguish ATAGS include its rapid deployment capability, becoming mission-ready in under 90 seconds, and a high firing rate of five rounds per minute in burst mode. It also offers sustained firepower with up to 60 rounds per hour, and boasts a fully automated loading system, integrated fire control, and inertial navigation-based aiming systems. These enhancements contribute to greater precision and responsiveness on the battlefield.

Notably, the gun system is built for all-terrain mobility, capable of operating in extreme conditions ranging from deserts to high-altitude environments. Its electric drives and auxiliary power unit allow for fast movement and positioning, enabling shoot-and-scoot tactics to avoid counter-battery fire.

With the Indian Army already placing a ₹6,900 crore order for hundreds of ATAGS units and towing vehicles, the deployment is expected to gradually replace aging artillery systems such as the Bofors FH-77B and older Russian 130mm guns.

As India continues to modernize its artillery under the "Make in India" initiative, the induction of ATAGS is a key milestone. The system's extended range and precision strike capabilities are poised to enhance India's strategic depth and border security posture.