

Methane on Mars hints life existed there: NASA

 daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp

Search in

WORLD





IN-LAND : Celebrating 25 Years of Business Excellence

INLAND ECHELON
Ballalbagh, M.G.Rd, M'lore

IN-LAND BUILDERS®
Mangalore

INLAND WINDSORS
Maryhill, Airport Rd, M'lore

Saturday, February 28, 2015 3:40:44 PM (IST)

[Iraqi forces launch major offensive against IS](#)

[Six killed in Afghanistan roadside bombing](#)

[Are Muftis try to break off BJP alliance: Omar](#)

[Odisha government recommends setting up IIM in Sambalpur](#)

[Mehbooba Mufti defends Sayeed's remarks on Pakistan](#)

[Maken appointed Delhi Congress chief](#)

[Communalism a problem, but accusations won't help: Naqvi](#)

Washington, Feb 28 (IANS): After an exhaustive analysis of data obtained during 605 Martian days, NASA's Curiosity rover has confirmed the presence of methane on Mars environment which may hint that life once existed on the Red Planet.

The tunable laser spectrometer in the SAM (Sample Analysis at Mars) instrument of the Curiosity robot has unequivocally detected an episodic increase in the concentration of methane in Mars' atmosphere.

This puts an end to the long controversy on the presence of methane in Mars, which started over a decade ago when this gas was first detected with telescopes from the Earth, the authors from the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) reported.

Since methane can be the product of biological activity - practically all the existing methane in the Earth's atmosphere originates in this way - this has created great expectations that Martian methane could also be of a similar origin.

"It is a finding that puts paid to the question of the presence of methane in the Martian atmosphere but it does pose some other more complex and far-reaching questions, such as the nature of its sources," said study co-author Francisco Javier Martin-Torres from the Andalusian Institute of Earth Sciences (CSIC-UGR) at the University of Granada, Spain.

"The sources, we believe, must lie in one or two additional sources that were not originally contemplated in the models used so far. Among these sources, we must not rule out biological methanogenesis," he added.

According to some current models, if there really existed methane in Mars, it would remain there for an average 300 years and during this period, it would be homogeneously distributed across the atmosphere.

SAM has been detecting basal levels of methane concentration and has confirmed an event of episodic increase of up to 10 times this value during a period of 60 Martian days.

The new data are based on observations during almost one Martian year (almost two Earth years), included in the initial prediction for the duration of the mission (nominal mission), during which Curiosity has surveyed about 8 kms in the basin of the Gale crater.

The newly arrived MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution) from NASA will provide continuity for the study of this subject, the US space agency said in a statement.

In the near future, the Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO), jointly developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Russian Space Agency (Roscosmos) will measure the concentration of methane on Mars at a larger scale.

The paper was published in the journal Science.

Stay updated wherever you go with Daijiworld.com and Daijiworld 24X7 tv channel mobile apps.
[CLICK HERE](#) to download it for your device.
(available on Android and IOS)

[Treadmill performance can predict longevity](#)

[Court grants bail to Ritu Verma in black money case](#)

[Experts raise doubts over China's panda survey](#)

[More News »](#)

[Hindus should boycott films of Khans, Rahul should marry an Indian girl : BJP leader](#)

[AAP's internal Lokpal claims two camps, breakdown of trust](#)

[Mufti Sayeed sworn in as J&K chief minister, BJP's Nirmal Singh deputy](#)

[AAP members Yadav, Bhushan may resign as rift widens](#)

[Furore in Rajya Sabha over Mufti's comments](#)

[MP minister wants law allowing people to keep tigers as pets](#)

[Print this Article](#) [Email this article to your friend](#)

[Write your Comments](#)

News Title

Methane on Mars hints life
existed there: NASA

Your Name

Native Place / Place of Residence

Your E-mail

Your Comment

[Please limit your comments within You have characters left.
2000 characters]

Disclaimer: Please write your correct name and email address. Kindly do not post any personal, abusive, defamatory, infringing, obscene, indecent, discriminatory or unlawful or similar comments. Daijiworld.com will not be responsible for any defamatory message posted under this article.

Please note that under 66A of the IT Act, sending offensive or menacing messages through electronic communication service and sending false messages to cheat, mislead or deceive people or to cause annoyance to them is punishable. It is obligatory on Daijiworld to provide the IP address and other details of senders of such comments, to the authority concerned upon request.

Hence, sending offensive comments using daijiworld will be purely at your own risk, and in no way will Daijiworld.com be held responsible.

Security Validation

Enter the characters in the image
above

[Google Glass-like
motorcycle
helmet to hit
stands soon](#)

[CBSE
examinations
commence
from Monday](#)

[No change in
BJP stand on
article 370:
Venkaiah
Naidu](#)

[Sacked Mukul
unfazed,
Congress
says doors
open](#)
