



Arjun Mk-1A Battle Tanks

Why in News

Recently, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) placed an order with Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Chennai for supply of **118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun Mk-1A** for the Indian Army.



MBT ARJUN Mk 1A

Key Points

▪ About:

- The state-of-the-art MBT Mk-1A is a **new variant of [Arjun Tank](#)** designed to enhance fire power, mobility and survivability.
 - The Arjun Main Battle Tank project was **initiated by DRDO in 1972.**
- Infused with **72 new features and more indigenous content from the Mk-1 variant**, the tank would ensure effortless mobility in all terrains, besides precise target engagement during day and night.
- This indigenous MBT proves to be at **par with any contemporary in its class across the globe.**

▪ Developed By:

- **Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE)**, along with other laboratories of **[Defence Research & Development Organisation \(DRDO\)](#).**

▪ Significance:

- The order, worth Rs 7,523 crore, will provide further boost to the **'[Make in India](#)' initiative** in the defence sector and is a big step towards achieving **'[Aatmanirbhar Bharat](#)'**.

▪ Mk1A and MkII:

- The **development of Arjun Mk1** was followed by improved variants - **Mk1A and MkII**.
- **Arjun Mk1A**, which features improved firepower and transmission systems, completed the final integration tests in 2019 and was cleared for production.
- The **Arjun MkII variant** is a **light-weight Futuristic Main Battle Tank (FMBT)** with electro-optical sensors and high-power lasers.

Source: PIB

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