

Arjun Mark-1A tank

September 27, 2021

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

About Arjun Mk-1A-

- **The state-of-the-art MBT Mk-1A is a new variant of Arjun Tank** designed to enhance fire power, mobility and survivability.
- 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** with 360 degree coverage and works in both static & dynamic modes.
- The MBT Arjun Mk-1A has been **designed & developed by Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE)**, along with other laboratories of **DRDO**.
- It is equipped with **accurate & superior firepower, all-terrain mobility and an invincible multi-layered protection** provided by an array of advanced technology systems.
- This tank is **particularly configured and designed for Indian conditions** and hence it is suitable for deployment to protect the frontiers in an effective manner.
- It has a **multi-layered robust protective armour named 'Kanchan'**.
- The additions, along with its robust 120 mm rifled gun, have contributed to its categorisation as the **'hunter killer'**.
- At the moment, the Arjun Mk-1A carries a total of 39 rounds of different types of ammunition.
- For the first time, this includes thermobaric shells

designed as bunker-busters that can be used to target soldiers.

- The Prime Minister had handed over the MBT Arjun Mk-1A to the Chief of Army Staff in Chennai on February 14, 2021.

Arjun Tank-

- It is a third generation main battle tank developed by the Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) of the DRDO, for the Indian Army.
- Its design work began in 1986 and was finished in 1996.
- The Arjun main battle tank entered service with the Indian Army in 2004.
- Work on the variant Mark-1A, or Mk-1A, began in June 2010 and the tank was fielded for trials in June 2012.