

Articulated Vehicles

All-Terrain

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In news— Recently, the Indian Army has issued a Request For Information (RFI) for the supply of Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles to be deployed in Ladakh and Kutch.

About Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles-

- Articulated All-Terrain Vehicle is **a twin cabin, tracked, amphibious carrier for off road mobility.**
- The special design of this equipment exerts low ground pressure on the soil and a pull-push mode of locomotion between two cabins facilitates mobility over varied terrains like snow, desert and slush.
- A **ballistic protection** in the cabin body ensures protection to troops travelling in it from small arms fire.
- These vehicles are **very useful to move troops or supplies in snow-bound terrains and in marshy/sandy environments.**
- They can reach where wheeled vehicles cannot due to deep snow, slush or marshy terrain and can be very effective for patrolling and rapid deployment in operational situations.
- The RFI document specified that 12 vehicles need to be supplied to Nimu in Ladakh (snow-bound area) and six to Bhuj (marshy terrain) in Gujarat.
- **There are several Western manufacturers of Articulated All-Terrain Vehicles including** Canada and Finland.
- The **NASU vehicle of Finland** is used by the Finnish, French, Belgian and US Armies among others.
- **The Bandvagn 206 is used by the Swedish Army** and was developed by a Swedish Company which is now part of **BAE Systems**, Platforms and Services.

- The British and US militaries also use the Bandvagn 206.
- **The Russian Army uses the DT-30 Vityaz vehicle** and GAZ 3344 manufactured in the country.