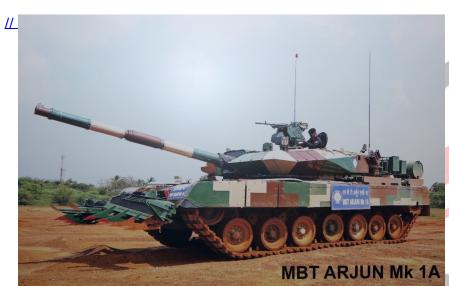


Arjun Mk-1A Battle Tanks

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.





Key Points

About:

- The state-of-the-art MBT Mk-1A is a **new variant of** <u>Arjun Tank</u> 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 <u>Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)</u>.
- Significance:
 - The order, worth Rs 7,523 crore, will provide further boost to the <u>'Make in India'</u> <u>initiative</u> in the defence sector and is a big step towards achieving <u>'Aatmanirbhar</u> <u>Bharat'</u>.
- 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

