



# ARJUN Joins Army

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The 43rd armoured regiment will henceforth be proudly called the Arjun Regiment. The Heavy Vehicle Factory, Avadi, handed over 16 Arjun tanks, signifying the cumulative of 45 main battle-tanks, for the Indian Army, through the hands of the Director General of Mechanised Force Lt. Gen D. Bharadwaj, VSM. S. Chandrasekar, Addl DG Ordnance Factory (AV), was the happiest man to deliver the state-of-the-art main battle-tank designed and developed by CVRDE, Avadi, along with other DRDO and industrial partners.

Dr Shivathanu Pillai, Chief Controller, DRDO, flagged off the tanks before a jubilant crowd. The regiment of 45 tanks will be subjected to conversion training and field practice for a period of 3 months. Thereafter, the Army is planning to conduct a comparative trial with T90 tanks in October/November 2009, to assess the operational deployment role of the tanks.

As there was a long gap from the R&D phase to production phase, from 1993 to 2000, problems related to re-establishing production lines and vendor sources and resolving overseas issues, like technology denials in view of the Pokhran testing, change-over and mergers of OEMS for the critical items, delayed the initial commencement of production. In order to meet the production requirement, additional infrastructure facilities and machine tools were established at HVF, Avadi, and Ordnance Factory, Medak.

The first pilot batch of the tanks

was finally handed over to the Army on 7 August 2004, in the presence of then Honourable Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee. During subsequent production, the Army insisted upon the demonstration of medium fording capabilities of the tank. Both CVRDE and HVF continuously worked on a war-footing, to meet the stringent requirement of medium fording to a height of 2.1m in water with preparation time of 30 minutes as retro-fitment solution.

A successful demonstration was given to Defence Minister A.K. Antony and other VVIPs on 2 July 2007. Subsequently, the production tanks were incorporated with all medium fording modifications. The next batch of 9 tanks was handed over by September 2007. The remaining 62 tanks will be handed over to Army before March 2010, as desired by the Indian army.

The DG-MF declared happily, that "Arjun is a proud possession of the Indian Army."



**Dr Shivathanu Pillai, Chief Controller, DRDO, flagging off the tanks.**