

Now the 43rd Armored Regiment henceforth will be proudly called as ARJUN REGIMENT as the first recipient of the Arjun Main Battle Tank (MBT). Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF), Avadi handed over 16 Arjun MBTs from a total of 45 tanks for Indian army through the hands of the Director General of Mechanized force (DGMF) Lt. Gen D. Bharadwaj VSM. Sri S. Chandrasekar, Additional Director General of the Avadi Ordnance Factory was the happiest man to deliver the state of art MBT, designed and developed by CVRDE, Avadi along with DRDO and other industrial partners. Dr. Shivathanu Pillai Chief, Controller DRDO, flagged-off the MBTs amidst a jubilant crowd in a festival mood. The regiment of 45 tanks will be subjected to a conversion training and field practice for a period of three months. Thereafter, the Army is planning to conduct comparative trials with T90 tanks in Oct/Nov 2009 to assess the operational deployment role of the tanks. The present batch of 124 tanks will be delivered by March 2010.

There was a long gap from the R&D phase to production phase from 1993 to 2000, due to problems related to reestablishing production lines, vendor sourcing and in the resolution of overseas issues like technology denials, enforced after Pokhran tests. Change over and mergers of OEMS for the critical items also delayed initial commencement of production. In order to meet the production requirement, additional infrastructure facilities and machine tools were estab-



ARJUN ARRIVES

Designed and developed by CVRDE, Avadi along with DRDO the indigenously built Arjun Tank is now available with the 43rd Armoured Regiment for conversion and field practice

lished at HVF, Avadi and Ordnance Factory, Medak. However, the first pilot batch of production tanks were handed over to Army on 7th August 2004 in the presence of then Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. During subsequent production, Army desired to witness a satisfactory demonstration of medium fording capabilities of the tank. Both CVRDE and HVF, continuously worked

on war footing, to meet the stringent requirement of medium fording to a height of 2.1m in water with a preparation time of 30 minutes. The critical qualitative requirement was met with a retro-fitment solution and the maneuver was demonstrated successfully to Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Sri AK Antony and other dignitaries on 2nd July, 2007.

Subsequently, the production tanks were incorporated with all medium fording modifications and the next batch of nine tanks were handed over by Sep2007. The remaining 62 tanks will be handed over to Indian Army before March 2010 as desired by them. The DG MF was happy to note that the Indian army is in the proud possession of the MBT Arjun.

Although this development went through enormous pangs of uncertainties and obstructions, its final arrival on the battlefield must be hailed. After all, it is our product with our toil and sweat. It is a step towards more indigenisation.



A Salute story