



Arjun: The Journey of India's MBT

This article is a humble tribute to Lt. Gen. Ajai Singh, who gave almost everything to make India's indigenous main battle tank programme a success. He was commissioned into the Poona Horse in June 1956 and served in the wars

of 1965 and 1971. He was a member of the Vijayanta trial team in the UK. He was involved in projects to modernise Vijayanta, up gunning of AMX-13 and T-54, and even draught the first GSQR of the Indian Main Battle Tank! In terms of achievement, he is

no less than legendary IDF Major General (Aluf) Israel Tal, who designed and developed the famous Merkava tank. Unfortunately, in India, a man of such calibre has gone into almost oblivion. He left us on his eternal journey on 18 April 2023. So I'm trying my best to pen down the epitome of the warrior Arjun in honour of the legendary personality.



Preface

To pen down the journey of Arjun tank is quite a colossal task. Unlike Western, Russian, Israeli, or even Korean tanks, the sheer lack of easily available credible sources on Indian projects has made this job much harder. The lack of a prime source definitely raises questions about credibility. Many old good sources have simply gone to extinction, leaving only marks hosted by third parties. And the rest are scattered here and there without following any continuity. Some information is taken from old news papers and magazines as well as analysis by veterans. The memoir by Lt. Gen. Singh