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DRDO Unveils Advanced Armoured Platforms to Boost Indigenous Defence Capabilities

Published On: 28-04-2026



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), under Chairman Samir V. Kamat, unveiled advanced tracked and wheeled armoured platforms in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra. These next-generation indigenous systems are designed to enhance mobility, firepower, and protection for the Indian Armed Forces and support modernization of ageing combat vehicles.

Launch & Development:

Unveiled at DRDO's Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (VRDE) in Maharashtra.

Developed indigenously with industry partners such as Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Bharat Forge Limited.

Types of Platforms:

Tracked Variant – suited for rough terrains and heavy combat.

Wheeled Variant – offers higher mobility and speed.

Operational Roles:

Infantry transport

Reconnaissance missions

Combat support operations

Deployment Capability:

Designed for diverse terrains:

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Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

High-altitude regions (e.g., Ladakh)

Deserts

Riverine areas

Key Features:

Advanced mobility, firepower, and protection systems

Amphibious capability (land + water operations)

Modular armour and modern combat technologies

Purpose:

Intended to replace ageing BMP-2 Infantry Fighting Vehicles used since the 1980s.

Supports India's push for Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance in defence)

Additional Key Facts:

The project is part of the Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) programme aimed at modernizing mechanised infantry.

The platform (e.g., Vikram VT-21) includes:

30 mm autocannon with crewless turret

Anti-tank guided missiles

AI-based targeting and terrain mapping (in advanced variants)

Designed with V-shaped hull for mine and blast protection (important defence tech concept).

Expected induction timeline: around 2028–2029 after trials.

Reflects DRDO's Development-cum-Production Partner (DcPP) model, integrating private sector early in defence production.

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