

Busting the myth: Why you are probably wrong about the Russian tanks



Jack-in-the-box effect (Image: Wikimedia)

Since the beginning of the Russia Ukrainian war in the last week of the February 2022 this year journalists, analysts, researchers and defence enthusiasts alike are arguing if the days of the tanks are over. Incomplete data, factual inaccuracies, myths and unconfirmed claims have created a lot of fallacies regarding the Russian tanks. Let's bust the bubble!

According to the independent military research blog "Oryx" Russia has lost at least 850 tanks of which around 500 are destroyed (by 8 July). There might be data to challenge it but it cannot be discarded that the Russian losses are much higher than had been anticipated before the start of the war. Western media has purportedly flooded the social media and news outlets with the images of burnt and destroyed Russian tanks. Once a precious weapon for the offense now lies in rubble here and there in the countryside of Ukraine. This is not the first time Russia has lost a large amount of equipment because the same happened in the Chechen conflict as well. While it cannot be discarded that these images are used for propaganda, the fact also cannot be neglected that Russian tanks are falling prey to Ukrainian equipment. Not just the old equipment like T-72A/B/AV or T-64BV but heavily upgraded and newer platforms like T-72B3M, T-80BVM and T-90A have

also destroyed in the large numbers. In fact the most advanced platform in the Russian Army, the T-90M has also been destroyed. Though still now (as on 16 May) only one has been deployed and exact reason behind its destruction is not known.

So are the Russian tanks absolute trash? Should they be discarded at once? Are they no match for Western counterpart? Absolutely not! These are some serious fallacies must be discarded.

We are not going to question training of crews, loopholes in tactics, logistical failures, lack of farsightedness, blunders made by the authorities, absence of other

supporting platforms or failure to establish absolute air superiority; because these are human factors and can lead any army towards their doom. We will just compare the platforms of the both the sides - the shield and the sword.

If you are keeping eye on this ongoing conflict you might have heard that the US and various European nations have supplied a wide range of weapons including man portable anti-tank guided missiles (ATGM) to Ukraine. These ATGM are the second most important reason behind the destruction of such a huge number of Russian platforms. First is the artillery strike!



Russian forces are seen on the streets of Mariupol on 15 April 2022. (Photo: CNN)