

# FRCV– India’s future battle tank and concerns: Part 2



Leopard 2A7 (Image from Wikipedia)

The ambitious Future Ready Combat Vehicle (FRCV) project India seeks to develop, to survive challenges of the future, will have a lot of obstacles to overcome. Many have expressed concerns about the viability of the intended requirements ever since the project’s inception. We are trying to explore all of these one by one. In the previous part, we tried to explain some of the aspects. It’s time we went through the rest of the concerns.

## Lethality

The RFI mentions the main gun has to be of a minimum 120mm and above caliber. Now, this is actually quite

significant. Clearly, the FRCV doesn’t set up any bars for the main gun. Rather prudently, it paves the way for the integration of any armament of choice with a higher caliber. And this coincides with the other future battle tank programmes as well (Rheinmetall 130mm/51 caliber and ASCALON 140mm/48 caliber). The US on the other hand is working on ARDEC XM360 (a 120mm/58 calibre one, to be integrated into the Abrams X, for M1E3 project and eventually M1A3) electrothermal chemical technology. While different western countries are approaching differently, at the end, most probably there would be a commonality in both the calibre and mechanism to be integrated into their respective tanks. Similarly, the nature of both the co-axial and turret mounted ones has changed. Gradually, the choice is shifting in favour of bigger 20mm and 30mm. The new generation of turret mounted RWS even has integrated weapons of two different calibres for customised roles. While the FRCV requirement has not yet shifted from the traditional armaments (7.62mm co-axial and 12.7mm RWS) the development must take care of the provision of inclusion by choice. FRCV at the same time eyes incorporation of loitering munitions for



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