

# Rise of Indian armour



*India has unveiled multiple armoured platforms in the last few years. In partnership with the public sector, India's private sector has achieved breakthroughs in multiple crucial technologies. These achievements have changed the Indian defence industry.*

## Zorawar

6 July 2024, marked a red letter day as India rolled out the first prototype of the “Zorawar” light tank from the Hazira facility of L&T in Gujarat. Jointly developed by L&T and CVRDE, DRDO, it materialised in a very short span of two and a half years. The platform was developed under “Project AFV-LT” to be deployed mainly in the high altitude region in the aftermath of Chinese aggression against India in the Himalayan region in 2020. It is named after the legendary general Zorawar Singh, who, as governor of Maharaja Gulab Singh Jamwal of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, successfully recovered Baltistan and Ladakh from Tibetan grip, which was under the suzerainty of the Qing Empire of China.

Designed for rapid deployment and maneuverability in the mountainous region, “Zorawar” is a 25 tonne platform. Despite being light, utmost attention has been given to lethality, survivability, mobility and comprehensibility. Currently, a John Cockerill 3105 turret equipped with a 105 mm high pressure rifled gun is integrated into a hull designed and developed by CVRDE. There is a 7.62–mm co-axial PKT gun as well as a 12.7 mm NSV remote weapon system (RWS) from BEL. It carries two Nag anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) as well for enhanced anti-armour operation. India is currently developing indigenous guns and APFSDS for self-reliance. The turret will be manufactured by Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH) Pvt Ltd in a joint venture with John Cockerill.