**K9 VAJRA-T Gun**

**Syllabus subtopic:** Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

**Prelims and Mains focus:** About the details of the gun and its role in India’s defence

**Context:** Defence Minister flagged off 51st K9 VAJRA-T Gun from Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Armoured System Complex at Hazira in Gujarat today.

**Details**

- The Defence Minister called for active participation of the private sector in defence manufacturing, reaffirming the Government’s commitment to make India an arms manufacturing hub and net defence exporter.
- While he acknowledged the increasing participation of the private industry in defence production, he stressed that a lot still needs to be done to make India a global defence manufacturing hub.
- He assured that the Government will make all efforts to remove any roadblocks and work together to achieve the goal of indigenisation and self-reliance in defence sector.

**Reforms in Defence sector**

Defence minister also listed out various far reaching reforms introduced by the Government under the ‘Make in India’ initiative to achieve $26 billion defence industry by 2025 and provide employment to 2-3 million people.

**Some of the reforms highlighted** include:

- setting up of Defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;
- simplification of industry licensing process;
- increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cap;
- steps to promote defence exports; streamlining of Defence offsets policy;
- establishing Defence Investor Cell;
- providing Government-owned trial and testing facility to the private sector, and
- schemes for startups and small & medium enterprises to promote innovation.
- The **Strategic Partnership (SP) model** has been introduced in the **Defence Production Policy (DPP)** under which private sector will be able to manufacture fighter aircraft, helicopters, submarines and armoured vehicles and emerge as global giants.

**About the Gun**

L&T Defence is currently executing the ‘K9 VAJRA-T’ Tracked, Self-Propelled Howitzer Guns program - the contract awarded to the company by Ministry of Defence through global competitive bidding.