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Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme

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Why in News

Recently, the government has approved the launch of ‘**Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)**’ in order to give a **boost to domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing**.

Background

- The Government has accorded high priority to development of the manufacturing base of Defence and Aerospace sectors in the country under “**Make in India**” **initiative** to reduce dependence on imports.
- In the above context, the government has already announced establishment of **Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs) in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**.
- But, still one of the main impediments for domestic defence production is **lack of easily accessible state-of-the-art testing infrastructure**.
- Defence Testing Infrastructure is **capital intensive** requiring continuous upgradation and it is not economically viable for individual defence industrial units to set up in-house testing facilities.

Key Points

- **Objectives:**
 - The Scheme aims to promote indigenous defence production, with special focus on participation of **MSMEs** and Start Ups by **bridging gaps in defence testing infrastructure in the country**.
 - It will also help to provide easy access and to meet the testing needs of the domestic defence industry.
 - It will facilitate indigenous defence production, consequently reduce imports of military equipment and help make the country self-reliant.

- **Finance and Cooperation:**

- The Scheme has an outlay of **Rs 400 crore** for creating state of the art testing infrastructure over the **duration of five years.**
- It envisages to set up test facilities in **partnership with private industry.**
- The projects under the Scheme will be provided with up to **75% government funding in the form of ‘Grant-in-Aid’.**
- The remaining **25% of the project cost** will have to be borne by the **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** whose constituents will be **Indian private entities and State Governments.**
 - Only private entities registered in India and State Government agencies will qualify for forming the implementation agency for the Scheme.
 - The SPVs under the Scheme will be registered under Companies Act 2013.

- **Location of DTISs:**

The Scheme aims at setting up Greenfield Defence Testing Infrastructure mainly in DICs but is not limited to setting up Test Facilities in the DICs only.

Source:PIB