



## K9 VAJRA-T Gun

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### Why in News

Recently, the defence minister flagged off **51<sup>st</sup> K9 VAJRA-T Gun** from **Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Armoured System Complex at Hazira in Gujarat.**



### Key Points

- The **K9 VAJRA-T 155mm/ 52** is a **tracked self-propelled howitzer** (a short gun for firing shells on high trajectories at low velocities), which has its roots in the K9 Thunder, the mainstay of the South Korean Army.
- It offers a high rate of fire at long-range and is compatible with Indian and standard **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** ammunition.
- The K9 Thunder platform is made of all-welded steel armour protection material.
- The K9 gun has been developed under the '**Buy Global**' programme of the **Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)** where foreign companies are allowed to participate.

In this case, Hanwha Techwin of South Korea is the technology partner of L&T.

- The first 10 K9 Vajra guns have been imported from South Korea and assembled by L&T in India. The balance 90 guns will be largely manufactured in the country.
- L&T Defence is currently executing the '**K9 VAJRA-T**' **Tracked, Self-Propelled Howitzer Guns program** - the contract awarded to the company by the Ministry of Defence through **global competitive bidding**.

**Source: PIB**