

K9-Vajra

Why in News?

The Defence Ministry has started the process for the **procurement of 100 more** <u>K9-Vajra</u> **tracked selfpropelled howitzers.**

• The 100th gun was delivered to the Army in 2021.



What is K9-Vajra?

- The K9 Vajra is a 155 mm, 52-calibre tracked self-propelled howitzer (a short gun for firing shells on high trajectories at low velocities) built in India by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) with technology transferred from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defense based on its K9 Thunder.
 - 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.
- The K9 Vajra was mainly bought for use in deserts, but the India-China standoff prompted them to be deployed in the mountains as well.
 - To ensure that these systems performed optimally in the extreme cold weather conditions of the mountains, the Army also procured winterisation kits for the regiment deployed.

Source: TH

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