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INDIA'S INDIGENOUS LIGHT TANK ZORAWAR UNVEILED

(This article is related to the section ' India's Defence Technology, Make in India Programme, Indigenisation of Defence Technology ' of UPSC Civil Services Mains General Studies Paper – 3 and ' DRDO and Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Dogra General Zorawar Singh Kahluria, Zorawar Light Tank, Tanks equipped with Remote-Controlled Weapon System (RCWS) ' of UPSC Prelims Exam. It also includes suggestions from the PLUTUS IAS Team. This article is related to ' India's indigenous light tank Zorawar unveiled ' of ' Daily Current Affairs '.)

WHY IN THE NEWS ?



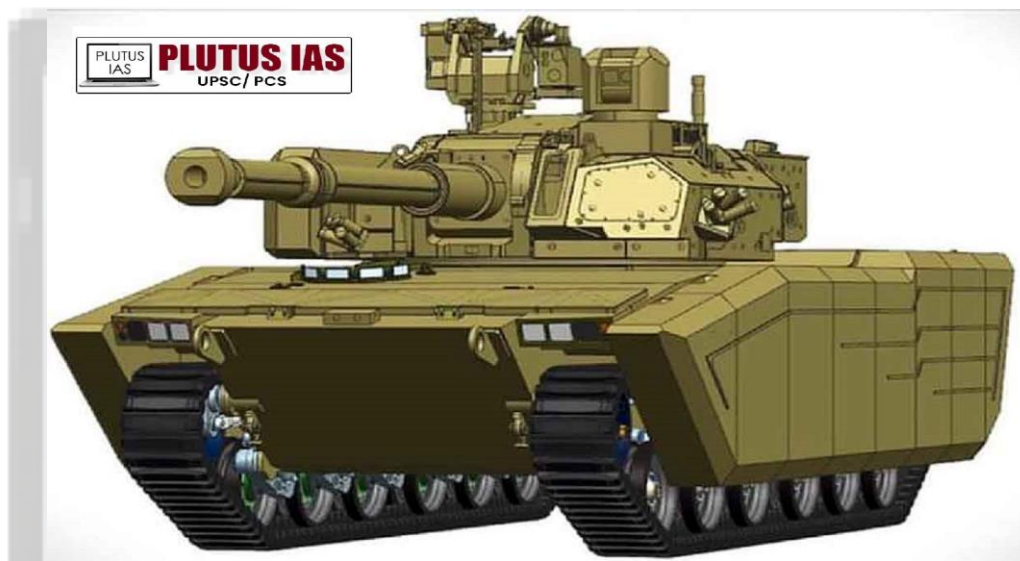
- India recently launched indigenous light tank manufactured in joint collaboration between DRDO and Larsen & Toubro (L&T). 'Zorawar' has been unveiled.
- This tank has been developed with the aim of enhancing military capabilities in high altitude environments. Its prototype is now ready for extensive testing.
- This indigenous light tank 'Zorawar' is planned to be deployed on the India-China border (LAC).

INTRODUCTION OF ZORAWAR LIGHT TANK :

- Zorawar Light Tank is an indigenously designed and developed light tank.
- It has been jointly developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and lead integrator Larsen & Toubro (L&T).

- The tank is named after 19th century military general Zorawar Singh Kahluria, who served under Raja Gulab Singh of Jammu.
- Zorawar tank name 19th century Dogra general It is named after Zorawar Singh Kahluria, who led the military expedition to Kailash-Mansarovar during the Sino-Sikh War in 1841.
- Named in honor of General Zorawar Singh, the tank is slated for extensive trials ahead of possible deployment in Ladakh, Sikkim, or Kashmir.
- The tank has been designed within a record two-year timeframe and features advanced weapons and protection systems including a 105 mm rifled cannon and composite modular armor.

FEATURES OF ZORAWAR TANK :



The Zorawar tank, deployed by the Indian Army, is a modern and lightweight tank that has been deployed against China's Type-15 tanks. **It has the following characteristics -**

1. **Weight** : The Zoravar tank weighs a maximum of 25 tonnes, making it capable of being transported by air.
2. **Height and role of artillery** : This tank is capable of attacking even at high altitude and can play a limited artillery role.
3. **Operating in different terrains** : Zorawar is designed to operate from high altitude areas to insular areas.
4. **Equipped with modern technologies** : The tank is equipped with modern technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, drone integration, high level of situational awareness and amphibious operations capability.
5. **Combination of basic parameters of the tank** : It combines the basic parameters of fire, power, mobility and safety.

6. **Plan to include it in the Indian Army** : It is likely to be inducted into the Indian Army by the year 2027 after all the trials.
7. **The tank provides versatility to operate in different terrains of India** : Zorawar is an Indian light tank design. It is designed with a high power-to-weight ratio, heavy firepower, protection, surveillance and communications capabilities. It is designed to provide the Indian Army with the versatility to operate in diverse terrains against diverse threats and the equipment profile of its adversaries.
8. **Tank equipped with Remote-Controlled Weapon System (RCWS)** : The tank is designed by integrating advanced systems such as Remote-Controlled Weapon System (RCWS) and is designed for amphibious operations, which enhances troop movement and operational maneuverability in various terrains.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF ZORAWAR TANK FOR INDIA :



- Zorawar tank is an important tactical equipment for the Indian Army.
- This tank was developed in response to strategic needs highlighted during the Ladakh standoff.
- It weighs 25 tonnes and is the first time that a new tank has been designed and tested in such a short period of time. |
- The design of 'Zoravar' tank improves deployment and operational mobility.
- It is capable of firing at high angles, being transported by air and carrying a limited number of guns.
- The main objective of this tank is to increase the presence of Indian military power in the challenging areas of India and to stop the attacks of enemy countries.
- This tank is an important step towards indigenization and modernization of India's defense capabilities |

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY EXAM :

Q.1. Consider the following statements about Zorawar Tank.

1. It features advanced weapons and protection systems including a 105 mm rifled cannon and composite modular armour.
2. Zorawar Tank is named after the 19th century Dogra general Zorawar Singh Dogaria.
3. The maximum weight of this tank is 45 tonnes, which makes it capable of being transported even by air.
4. It has been manufactured in joint collaboration between DRDO and Larsen & Toubro.

Which of the above statement / statements is/ are correct?

- A. Only 1, 2 and 3.
- B. Only 1 and 4.
- C. Only 2, 3 and 4.
- D. Only 2 and 3.

Answer - B

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM :

Q.1. Describe the key features of the Zorawar Light Tank and Discuss how it is strategically important in India's defence technology sector from high altitude areas to island territories? (Word Limit - 250 Marks - 15)

Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Shrivastava