



Indian Army Gets AK-203 Rifles

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The **Indian Army** has received the first batch of 27,000 units of **Russian AK-203 assault rifles**.

- Under a contract signed between India and Russia in July 2021, over **6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles** are to be manufactured in India with technology transfer from Russia.
- The joint venture **Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)** was established at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh in 2019 for this purpose.
 - It was set up between the erstwhile **Ordnance Factory Board** [now **Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL)** and Munitions India Limited (**MIL**)] from India and **Rosoboronexport (RoE)** and **Kalashnikov concern** of Russia.
- India is progressively making the AK-203 rifles within the country, aiming to reach **70%** domestic content in just 2 years. Currently, around **25%** of the rifle's parts are manufactured locally.
- The full-scale production with 100% localisation of rifles is expected to be reached within 2-3 years.
- The Indian Army has been phasing out the **INSAS (Indian National Small Arms System)** rifles in favour of more advanced weaponry.



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