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PLR Systems Delivers NEGEV LMGs to Indian Army — Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence

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PLR Systems Delivers NEGEV LMGs to Indian Army — Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence

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✍ WHY IN NEWS

PLR Systems — a joint venture between Adani Defence and Aerospace and Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) — delivered the first batch of 2,000 Prahar (NEGEV NG-7) 7.62mm Light Machine Guns to the Indian Army on March 28, 2026, eleven months ahead of contract schedule.

BACKGROUND: INDIA'S SMALL ARMS CHALLENGE



The Indian Army had been operating the **INSAS (Indian Small Arms System) LMG** in 5.56x45mm calibre since the 1990s. Despite being indigenously developed, the INSAS LMG faced criticisms:

- Jamming and reliability issues in extreme cold (Siachen, Ladakh)
- Lower stopping power vs. adversaries equipped with 7.62mm weapons (including Pakistani Army and Chinese Type 95)
- Obsolete ergonomics and limited modularity

The Army had for decades sought a replacement but procurement moved slowly. Emergency procurement routes under revised Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 accelerated the process.

PLR SYSTEMS AND THE NEGEV CONTRACT

The Joint Venture

- **PLR Systems Pvt. Ltd.:** Adani Defence and Aerospace (majority) + IWI (Israel Weapon Industries)
- **IWI** is a leading Israeli small arms manufacturer whose products include the TAVOR, Galil, Negev, and UZI families
- PLR established manufacturing at **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh** — inaugurated in 2023
- Annual production capacity: up to **100,000 weapons** per year

The Contract

- Signed: **August 2024** (emergency procurement under fast-track route)
- Quantity: **41,000 units** — the **largest single small-arms contract ever awarded to an Indian private company**
- Delivery timeline: 5 years (contract); actual first delivery: 11 months early
- First batch: **2,000 Prahar LMGs** (March 28, 2026; Small Arms Complex, Gwalior)
- 2026 planned deliveries: additional **4,000 units**



The Weapon: NEGEV NG-7 / Prahar LMG

SPECIFICATION	DETAILS
Calibre	7.62x51mm NATO
Type	Light Machine Gun (LMG)
Cyclic Rate	~700-900 rounds/minute
Effective Range	800m (point); 1,800m (area)
Feed System	Belt-fed or M16 STANAG magazine
Barrel	Quick-change
Origin	Israel (IWI); manufactured in India (PLR Systems/Gwalior)

The weapon is branded **Prahar** (meaning “strike” in Hindi) for Indian service.

Indigenisation Roadmap

MILESTONE	TARGET
Initial	Significant imported ToT components
Within 3 years	75% indigenous content
End of decade	90% indigenous content

Full **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** from IWI to PLR Systems is included in the contract.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT IN DEFENCE

Defence Industrial Policy Context

- The Indian government’s **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** (self-reliant India) initiative in defence aims to reduce import dependence
- **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** created categories like “Make in India (MII)” and “Buy (Indian — Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured — IDDM)”
- India’s **Negative Import List** (now Defence Acquisition List) progressively restricts import of weapons that can be made domestically



- Small arms (rifles, LMGs, pistols) have been on the positive indigenisation list since 2021

Private Sector in Defence

- Traditionally, India's defence production was monopolised by DPSUs (Defence PSUs like OFB/OFB factories, HAL, BEL, DRDO) and Ordnance Factories
- DAP 2020 and the **Corporatisation of Ordnance Factories** (2021) opened space for private players
- PLR Systems' contract is significant as the **first large-scale private small arms contract** — precedent-setting for future procurement

India's Defence Exports Context

- India's defence exports reached a record **₹38,424 crore in FY 2025-26** (+62.66%)
- PLR Systems' production capacity (100,000 weapons/year) positions it for future export orders (NEGEV is used by 30+ countries)

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 3 — Security and Defence

- India's defence modernisation and small arms procurement
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence: policy framework, achievements, challenges
- Private sector role in defence production; DAP 2020

GS Paper 2 — Governance

- Defence Acquisition Procedure and procurement reform
- India-Israel defence cooperation

Prelims Facts to Remember

- PLR Systems = Adani Defence + IWI (Israeli)
- NEGEV NG-7 = 7.62mm, Indian name: Prahar LMG
- Contract: 41,000 units, August 2024; First delivery: 2,000 units, March 28, 2026
- Plant: Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
- Replaces: INSAS LMG (5.56mm)



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PLR SYSTEMS NEGEV LMG:

Company: PLR Systems (Adani Defence & Aerospace + IWI, Israel)

Weapon: NEGEV NG-7, branded Prahar LMG; Calibre: 7.62x51mm NATO

Contract: 41,000 units (Aug 2024); value: largest single private small arms contract

First delivery: 2,000 units, March 28, 2026 (Gwalior); 11 months early

Planned 2026 deliveries: +4,000 units; IndCon target: 75% (3 yrs), 90% (decade)

Plant: Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh (capacity: 100,000 weapons/year)

Replaces: INSAS LMG (5.56mm, in service since 1990s)

IWI (ISRAEL WEAPON INDUSTRIES):

Products: TAVOR, Galil, Negev, UZI

ToT provided to PLR Systems for NEGEV NG-7

POLICY CONTEXT:

DAP 2020: Defence Acquisition Procedure

Aatmanirbhar Bharat; Negative Import List for defence

Defence exports FY26: ₹38,424 crore (all-time record)

Sources: [The Print](#), [Business Standard](#), [PIB](#)

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