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MoD Signs Rs 1,577 Crore Contract for Loiter Munition Systems with Tata and NIBE

16 August 2026 ·

SECURITY & DEFENCE

GS3

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MoD Signs Rs 1,577 Crore Contract for Loiter Munition Systems with Tata and NIBE

16 August 2026 · 1 min read

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth Rs 1,577 crore with Tata Advanced Systems Limited and NIBE Private Limited on August 14, 2026, for loiter munition systems for the Indian Army, in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

What Was Signed

The procurement covers **840 loiter munition units** with a strike range exceeding **100 km**, acquired under the “**Buy (Indian)**” category via the **Fast Track Procedure**. Tata Advanced Systems is the **L1 vendor with roughly 64 per cent** of the order share, while NIBE Ltd, whose system is named “**Vayuastra**,” holds the remainder as **L2 vendor**. The tender for these units had opened in **July 2026**.

Why It Matters

Loitering munitions, often called “suicide drones,” can circle a target area before striking, combining reconnaissance and precision-strike roles in one platform. Their growing use in recent conflicts has made indigenous loitering-munition capability a priority for the Indian Army, aligning with the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** push in defence manufacturing.

UPSC Relevance

The “Buy (Indian)” category under India’s **Defence Acquisition Procedure** prioritises indigenously designed, developed and manufactured platforms, distinct from “Buy (Global)” or “Buy and Make” routes. This is a useful case study for GS3 answers on defence indigenisation and evolving drone/loitering-munition warfare doctrine.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**LOITER MUNITION CONTRACT, AUGUST 2026:**

Signed: August 14, 2026; value: Rs 1,577 crore

Vendors: Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (L1, ~64%), NIBE Ltd (L2), NIBE's system: "Vayuastra"

Units: 840; strike range: over 100 km

Acquisition category: Buy (Indian), via Fast Track Procedure

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Tender opened: July 2026

Sources: India Sentinels, PIB, Ministry of Defence

Source: MoD Signs Rs 1,577 Crore Contract for Loiter Munition Systems with Tata and NIBE — Ujjyari.com | Free
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