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India Test-Fires First Fully Indigenised AK-203 "Sher" Assault Rifle

23 August 2026 ·

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India Test-Fires First Fully Indigenised AK-203 "Sher" Assault Rifle

23 August 2026 · 1 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) successfully test-fired, including burst-firing, the first prototype of a fully indigenised **AK-203 "Sher"** assault rifle at its **Korwa facility, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh**, on **August 23, 2026**, the first time every component and input material has been sourced from Indian industry.

What Comes Next

Army field trials are slated for **September 2026**. IRRPL is a joint venture between India's Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited and Russia's Kalashnikov Concern/Rosoboronexport, holding a contract worth **Rs 5,200 crore** for **6,01,427 rifles** to India's armed forces.

Why This Matters

The move illustrates the maturing of India-Russia defence joint ventures from assembly-level manufacturing to full component **indigenisation**. The original delivery deadline was October 2032, but IRRPL is now targeting completion by December 2030, reflecting accelerated localisation of the supply chain.

UPSC Relevance

This connects GS3 defence indigenisation and Aatmanirbhar Bharat with India-Russia joint-venture defence manufacturing. A useful Mains angle examines whether this component-localisation model can be replicated across other India-Russia defence platforms to reduce import dependence and strengthen the domestic MSME defence supply chain.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**AK-203 “SHER” INDIGENISATION:**

Manufacturer: IRRPL; facility: Korwa, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh

Contract: Rs 5,200 crore for 6,01,427 rifles

Original delivery deadline: October 2032; targeted advancement to December 2030

Army field trials: September 2026

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

“Sher” designates the fully indigenised variant of the AK-203 assault rifle

Sources: *PIB, Ministry of Defence*

Source: India Test-Fires First Fully Indigenised AK-203 "Sher" Assault Rifle — Ujiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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