

# 'Sher' - India's First Fully Indigenous AK-203 Rifle to be Delivered by December 2025

## Overview

- The much-awaited **first fully indigenous AK-203 assault rifle**, christened '**Sher**' (**Lion**), will be delivered to the Indian Army by **December 31, 2025**.
- Production is being handled by **Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)**, a joint venture between:
  - **India:** Advanced Weapons & Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) & Munitions India Limited (MIL)
  - **Russia:** Rosoboronexport (RoE) & Concern Kalashnikov (CK)  
(*Indian stake: 50.5%; Russian stake: 49.5%*)
- **India** is the **first country** to produce the **AK-200 series** rifles indigenously.

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## Contract Details

- **Total Rifles Ordered:** 6,01,427
- **Contract Value:** ₹5,200 crore
- **Contract Signed:** December 2021
- **Scheduled Completion:** December 2032
- **Revised Completion:** Mid-2030 (22 months ahead of schedule)

## Production & Delivery Updates

- **48,000 rifles** delivered so far (50% indigenous content).
- **Next Deliveries:**
  - **7,000 rifles** in the next 2-3 weeks.
  - **15,000 rifles** by December 2025.
- **First 100% indigenous batch** of '**Sher**' rifles:

- Delivery Date: **December 31, 2025**
- **Upcoming 70,000 rifles** (with 70% indigenous content) to be delivered within five months.
- **Target Production (from next year):**
  - **1.5 lakh rifles annually**, of which:
    - **1.2 lakh rifles** for the Army.
    - **30,000 rifles** for paramilitary forces, state police, and exports.

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## Why AK-203 ‘Sher’?

- **Replacing:** INSAS rifles (in service for over 30 years).
- **Advantages over INSAS and AK-47:**
  - Higher firepower and durability.
  - Lighter and more compact.
  - Enhanced battlefield adaptability.

## AK-203 ‘Sher’: Key Specifications

Feature	Details
<b>Rate of Fire</b>	700 rounds per minute
<b>Effective Range</b>	800 metres
<b>Calibre</b>	7.62×39 mm
<b>Magazine Capacity</b>	30 rounds
<b>Weight (without magazine)</b>	3.8 kg (AK-47: 4.3 kg)
<b>Length (without stock)</b>	705 mm (INSAS: 960 mm)
<b>Features</b>	Telescopic buttstock, improved recoil control, modern optics compatibility

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## Deployment Areas

- Will serve as the **standard weapon for Indian Army’s infantry**, particularly in:
  - **Northern & Western Borders**
  - **Line of Control (LoC)**

- **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**

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## **Export Interest**

- Several countries in **Southeast Asia** and **Africa** have expressed interest in purchasing AK-203 rifles from India.
- **18 Indian states, union territories**, and **paramilitary forces** have also placed requisition requests.

## **Strategic Significance**

- A major milestone in the **Make in India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiatives.
- Strengthens India's position as a **defence manufacturing hub**.
- Reduces dependency on imports, with significant export potential.

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