# Indian Army integrates Nagastra-1 drones for enhanced combat capabilities



The Indian Army has enhanced its combat capabilities by integrating the indigenously developed Nagastra-1 drones into its arsenal. Developed by Solar Industries' subsidiary, Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) in Nagpur, Maharashtra, the Nagastra-1 operates as a "loitering munition" or "suicide drone." A total of 480 units were ordered, with the initial batch of 120 reaching the Army Ordnance Depot.

Weighing approximately nine kilograms, these drones are designed for precision air strikes. They feature GPS-enabled guidance systems that enable accurate targeting within a two-meter radius. Capable of flying for up to 60 minutes, the Nagastra-1 has an operational range of 15 kilometers in its primary loop and extends up to 30 kilometers in autonomous mode. The drone can reach altitudes of up to 4,500 meters and remains undetected by radar systems.

Equipped with day-and-night surveillance cameras, Nagastra-1 can loiter over a designated area, identify targets, and execute a precise attack. In case of mission aborts or inaccessible targets, the drone can return and land safely using a parachute recovery system. This advanced, indigenously designed technology is on par with or exceeds the capabilities of similar drones from developed countries.

The Indian Army's adoption of these drones follows a global trend of increasing reliance on drone technology in modern warfare, as seen in recent conflicts involving Ukraine and Yemen. Further emphasizing the strategic shift towards enhanced drone capabilities, India has also entered into an agreement with the US to acquire armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones from General Atomics, which will be assembled domestically to boost intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.