# India Marks Milestone with Nagastra 1 Induction for Advanced Drone Warfare Capabilities



**India Advances in Drone Warfare with Nagastra 1 Induction**

On the fourth anniversary of the Galwan Valley clash, India marked a significant milestone in defense capabilities with the induction of the Nagastra 1, its first domestically manufactured loitering munition, into the Indian Army. These suicide drones, produced by Economics Explosive Limited—a subsidiary of Solar Industries in Nagpur—are designed for strategic use along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, particularly in eastern Ladakh.

### Deployment and Capabilities

The Indian Army has received an initial batch of 120 Nagastra 1 drones from a total order of 480 units. These drones are designed to execute precise air strikes on enemy tanks, armored vehicles, military trucks, bunkers, and weapon depots. They weigh 9 kg, have a flight duration of 30 minutes, and can operate within a range of 15 km when controlled by an operator, extending to 30 km in autonomous mode.

### Testing and Features

The Nagastra 1 was tested in the Nubra Valley of Ladakh. With low sound emissions making it stealthy, this drone is capable of evading enemy radars. It features a fixed-wing design, a 1 kg explosive warhead, and is equipped with day-and-night surveillance cameras. In case of aborted missions, the drone can be recalled and safely landed using a parachute for potential reuse.

### Economic and Strategic Context

The introduction of the Nagastra 1 is also economically efficient, costing about 40% less than comparable drones imported from Israel and Poland. This development comes in the wake of the deadly Galwan Valley clash on June 15-16, 2020, which emphasized the need for advanced surveillance and combat technologies. The Indian Army's reliance on indigenous technology underlines India's commitment to self-reliance as part of the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative.

### Conclusion

The Nagastra 1 enhances India's defense strategy, enabling precise and covert military operations. This development is part of the broader trend of increasing the role of drones in modern warfare, as seen in various global conflicts. The Indian Army’s investment in this technology represents a step toward bolstered national security and technological self-sufficiency.