

Feature/Report

A Shot in the Arm

Punj Lloyd and IWI to make small arms in India

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Malanpur, Gwalior: India and Israel will jointly make battle proven, small arms such as the highly customisable X95 weapon system which can be used as an assault rifle, carbine and a SMG (sub machine gun). The joint venture will also make the TAVOR assault rifle which was used for the surgical strikes against Pakistan. The other major weapon systems being developed are the GALIL sniper rifle and NEGEV light machine gun which can be customised as both semi-automatic and automatic.



Chairman Punj Lloyd, Atul Punj

Punj Lloyd and its joint venture (JV) partner, Israel Weapon Industries (IWI), inaugurated the country's first Private Sector Small Arms Manufacturing Plant at Malanpur in Madhya Pradesh on May 4. The joint venture company Punj Lloyd Raksha Systems (PLR) will be manufacturing small arms for the Indian defence forces.

President, Manufacturing Business (Defence and Aerospace) at Punj Lloyd Limited, Ashok Wadhawan talked about IWI and the weapons they intend to jointly produce. "The carbine for the forces is again getting fast tracked and we are bidding for it together. Whether IWI bids or we bid, it doesn't make a difference because end of the day, we'll manufacture it here. The light machine gun is also in the final stages. There is a Request for Information (RFI) for snipers which we have bid for. The sniper gun is for the army and it is for about 3600 units."

Commenting on the weapons facility, Wadhawan said, "So, now all the weapons which we are giving from here are basically TAVORS. Most of it in fact. We'll be giving the TAVOR for the carbine as well. There are three to four versions of the TAVOR. We have a TAVOR version for the carbine and one for the assault rifle. We are coming out with a TAVOR version of 7.62x51. So, it will be the TAVOR series that we'll be focusing upon."