

# 8 yrs later, Army to get 1.87L bulletproof vests

## Army's requirement of 3.53 lakh jackets has been pending since 2009

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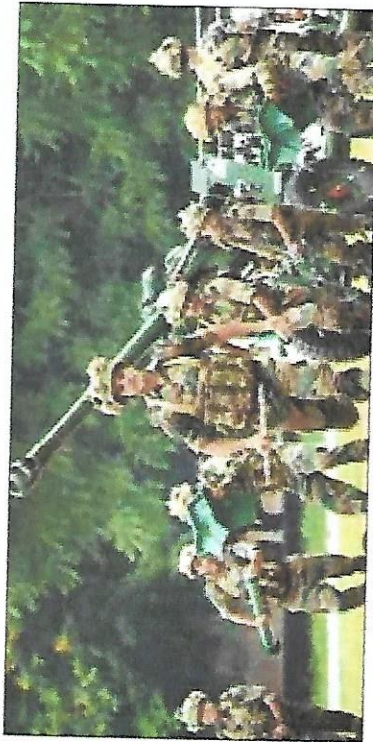
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**New Delhi:** The Indian Army is all set to get 1.87 lakh bulletproof jackets after a wait of eight years — filling up the gap in its requirement of 3.53 lakh jackets pending since 2009.

Last year, in an emergency procurement, 50,000 jackets were purchased in the wake of enhanced counter-terror operations in Kashmir.

The new bulletproof jackets will be ultra light and easier to wear during combat situations. They will protect the neck, chest, and groins.

The existing jackets secure a smaller body area as compared to the ones being used internationally, but the new ones will have modifica-



The Indian Army has been facing frequent combat situations, especially during anti-terror operations in Kashmir —FILE PHOTO

ogy and manufacturing expertise as the reasons behind sample failure. A fresh RFP was issued on April 4, 2016.

"There is an urgent need for modern bulletproof jackets that the Army has been pushing for," said an army source.

A parliamentary standing committee report on defence earlier this year had expressed anguish over the critical shortage of bulletproof jackets calling the situation alarming. The Army had also informed the committee that based on the emerging threats the requirement of bulletproof jackets was on the rise.

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bulletproof jackets, but since none of the manufacturers met the standards, order of 1.87 lakh could not go through.

The Request for Proposal was retracted on October 5, 2015 due to rejection of all samples in the trials. Analysis revealed lack of technol-

tions in design to meet global standards.

Sources said a trial was recently conducted in which four companies participated — MKU, Tata Advanced, SMPP, and AR Polymers.

A Rs 125 crore deal was signed last year to buy 50,000