



# F-INSAS



## CONTEXT



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hands over indigenously-developed Future Infantry Soldier as a System (F-INSAS) along with the Nipun mines, the Land Craft Assault (LCA) to the Indian Army

## WHAT IS THE F-INSAS SYSTEM?



F-INSAS stands for Future Infantry Soldier As A System, a programme for infantry modernisation aimed at increasing the operational capability of the soldier.

As part of the project, soldiers are being equipped with modern systems that are light-weight, all-weather-all-terrain, cost-effective and low maintenance.

The full gear of the F-INSAS system includes an AK-203 assault rifle, which is a Russian-origin gas-operated, magazine-fed, select-fire assault rifle.

In defensive mode, the grenades are to be hurled when the thrower is in a shelter or has a cover, while the target is in the open and can be harmed by fragmentation.

On the weaponry front, other than the AK-203, the F-INSAS includes a multi-mode hand grenade, which can be used in defensive and offensive modes.

A contract for over six lakh AK-203 rifles was signed in December 2021 between the Ministry of Defence and the Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL).

It has a range of 300 metres and is being made at Korwa near Amethi in a Russia-India joint venture.



In the offensive mode, the grenades do not fragment and the adversary is harmed by the blast or is stunned. The weapon kit also has a multi-purpose knife for close-quarters combat.

The F-INSAS provides soldiers with ballistic helmets and ballistic goggles for protection against small projectiles and fragments, along with a bulletproof vest.

The helmet and the bullet-proof jacket are capable of protecting the soldier against 9 mm bullets and ammunition fired from AK-47 rifles.

For target acquisition, the soldier has a rifle-mounted holographic sight for fast and accurate aiming with a range of 200 metres.

The helmet has a mounted night-vision device for operating in low-light conditions and the option of installing a thermal imager sight. Thermal imagers convert infrared energy from objects into thermal images.

The F-INSAS also comes with hands-free, secured advanced communications set for real-time exchange of information with the command post and fellow soldiers for enhanced situational awareness.

## THE F-INSAS MODELLED ON



- Conceived in the 2000s, F-INSAS is one among many soldiers' modernisation programmes across the world.
- The US has Land Warrior, while the UK has FIST (Future Integrated Soldier Technology).
- The DRDO had conceptualised the F-INSAS (not to be confused with INSAS or Indian Small Arms System) in line with the targets of the Army's Infantry Soldier Modernisation Programme to optimise the soldier's performance across the full spectrum and duration of a military operation.

