

Security Forces and Their Mandate

► 11.1 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)

There are basically two types of central security forces, viz., CAPF and CPMF.

CAPFs stand for Central Armed Police Forces. This new terminology was introduced in 2011 on the request of the Army. Presently the CAPF comprise the following eight police forces of the Union government.

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|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| (a) BSF | (b) CRPF | (c) ITBP | (d) CISF |
| (e) SSB | (f) NSG | (g) SPG | (h) RPF |

The first six, viz., BSF, CRPF, ITBP, CISF, SSB and NSG are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), while the SPG is under the Cabinet Secretariat and the RPF is under the Ministry of Railways. They all are headed by senior IPS officers. Most of the higher posts in these five are filled through deputation by IPS officers. These forces assist and report to MHA. Earlier they were known as Central Paramilitary Forces (CPMF). Out of these five, the first three namely, BSF, SSB, ITBP are basically border guarding forces while the CRPF is for internal security and election duties.

CRPF also provides security to major critical installations of the country. NSG is the commando force meant for counter terrorism but also looks after high risk VIP security. SPG is for proximate security of PM and ex-PM while RPF guards railway property and ensures passenger safety.

► 11.1.1 Border Security Force (BSF)

The Border Security Force (BSF) is a border guarding force. It was established on December 1, 1965. Its primary role is to guard India's international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh during peacetime and also prevent trans-border crime. BSF is headed by an IPS officer and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The Indo-Pakistan war of 1965 demonstrated the inadequacies of the existing border management system and led to the formation of the Border Security Force as a unified central agency with the specific mandate of guarding India's international boundaries with Pakistan. The BSF had trained, supported and formed a part of 'MuktiVahini'. The BSF had played an important role in the liberation of Bangladesh.

It has a strength of 2,50,000 personnel in 186 battalions. Some battalions of BSF are also deployed with CRPF in Naxal affected region of Dandakaranya and Jammu and Kashmir. The air wing of the BSF also played a constructive role in the relief work in Uttarakhand during the Kedarnath disaster in 2013.

Two battalions of the BSF, located at Kolkata and Guwahati, are designated as the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Role of BSF During Peacetime

During peacetime, the BSF is associated with the following:

- To promote sense of security among the people living in the border areas
- To prevent trans-border crimes, unauthorised entry into or exit from the territory of India
- To prevent smuggling and any other illegal activities on the border
- Anti-infiltration duties
- To collect trans-border intelligence

Role of BSF in Times of War

During the war, BSF is responsible for:

- Holding ground in assigned sectors
- Limited aggressive action against Central Armed Police or irregular forces of the enemy
- Maintenance of law and order in enemy territory administered under the Army's control
- Guarding of prisoners of war camps
- Acting as guides to the army in border areas
- Assistance in control of refugees
- Provision of escorts
- Performing special tasks connected with intelligence, including raids

► 11.1.2 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

The CRPF is the largest Central Armed Police Force in the country. It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27th July 1939. After India's independence, it became the Central Reserve Police and since then, the Force

has achieved remarkable growth in strength and capabilities. It has strength of 234 battalions (Bns) including raising and under-raising Bns. At present, CRPF has 195 executive Bns, 02 Disaster Management Bns, 04 Mahila Bns, 10 RAF Bns, 05 Signal Bns, 10 Commando Bns for Resolute Action (COBRA Bns), 01 Special Duty Group, 01 Parliament Duty Group (PDG) and 40 Group Centres and other allied institutions and training centres. CRPF has also raised 03 NDRF Battalions to assist during natural calamities and disasters. It functions under the aegis of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Government of India. The CRPF is headed by an IPS Officer.

Role The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order contain insurgency and carry out anti Naxal operations. The CRPF also plays an important role in conducting elections across the country. Besides, it also performs guard duties at some of the vital installations and buildings, including the shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Jammu, and other religious shrines.

Some specialized formations of CRPF are as follows:

1. **The Rapid Action Force (RAF):** It is a specialised 10 battalion wing of CRPF. It was formed in October 1992, to deal with communal riots and related civil unrest. It is a specialized force with multi-ethnic composition and better mobility for swift action to control communal riots.
2. **Commando Battalions for Resolute Action (COBRA) Bn :** There are 10 specialised battalions named COBRA and these battalions became operational during 2008-09. They are trained and equipped for commando operations especially against Left Wing Extremism and are capable of undertaking intelligence based quick operations.
3. **Special Duty Group (SDG) and Parliament Duty Group (PDG) :** SDG is an elite CRPF unit tasked to provide armed protection to SPG protected places. It comprises of personnel drawn from various units of CRPF. SDG members are trained in combating nuclear and bio-chemical attacks, rescue operations and behavioural management. PDG is also an elite CRPF unit tasked to provide armed protection to Parliament House. The creation of the PDG was mooted in the aftermath of the 2001 Parliament terror attack. It comprises 1,540 personnel drawn from various units of CRPF. PDG members are trained in combating nuclear and bio-chemical attacks, rescue operations and behavioural management. The PDG has distinct units of security personnel, communications experts, quick reaction teams and medical staff.

► 11.1.3 Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

The ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police) is a border guarding force. ITBP is headed by an IPS officer and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). ITBP was established on October 24, 1962 for security along India's border with the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. It was raised with 4 service Battalions in the wake of Indo-China conflict in 1962. Presently, battalions of ITBP are deployed on border guarding duties from Karakoram

Pass in Ladakh to Diphu La in Arunachal Pradesh, covering 3,488 km of the Indo-China Border. Manned border posts are at altitudes as high as 21,000 feet in the western, middle and eastern sectors of the border. ITBP is a mountain trained force and most of the officers and men are professionally trained mountaineers and skiers.

ITBP is a multi-dimensional force with primarily five functions:

- Vigil on the northern borders, detection and prevention of border violations and promotion of the sense of security among the local populace
- Check illegal immigration and trans-border smuggling
- Provide security to sensitive installations and threatened VIPs
- Restore and preserve order in any area in the event of disturbance
- To maintain the peace in the country.

The border posts manned by ITBP are exposed to high velocity storms, snow blizzards, avalanches and landslides, besides the hazards of high altitude and extreme cold, where temperature dips up to minus 40 degrees Celsius.

The ITBP has recently taken on disaster management role. Being the first responder for natural disaster in the Himalayas, the ITBP was the first to establish 06 (now 08) Regional Response Centres in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and the North-east. It has carried out numerous rescue and relief operations in various disaster situations, which took place in their areas of responsibility as well as other parts of the country. ITBP has already trained 1,032 personnel in disaster management including 98 personnel in radiological and chemical and biological emergencies.

ITBP commando units also provide security to the embassy and consulates of India in Afghanistan. The force has also been providing security to pilgrims during the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra since 1981. ITBP provides communication, security and medical cover to the yatis.

ITBP, being deployed in mountains, has developed the expertise in rescue and relief operations in the mountains, which entails specialised skills of very high standard. It is always first in extending rescue and relief in case of natural calamities. It BP played a critical role in the relief operation in Uttarakhand in 2013 ITBP conducts a large number of civic action programmes in remote border and terrorist affected areas to provide free and expert medical, health and hygiene care to the civilian population in remote villages.

➤ 11.1.4 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

The CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) provides security cover to 300 industrial units and other establishments located all over India. It was raised in the year 1969. It provides security cover to 307 industrial unit including 59 domestic and international airports and fire protection cover to 86 industrial undertakings. Industrial sectors like atomic power plants, space installations, mints, oil fields and refineries, major ports, the Delhi metro, heavy engineering and steel plants, barrages, fertilizer units, airports and hydroelectric/thermal power plants owned and controlled by the Central PSUs, and currency note

presses producing Indian currency are protected by the CISF. In a span of four decades, the force has grown manifold and has a sanctioned strength of 1,33,762 as on 31.12.2012. CISF is headed by an IPS officer and is under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). With the globalisation and liberalisation of the economy, CISF has become a premier multi-skilled security agency of the country mandated to provide security to major critical infrastructure installations of the country in diverse regions including terrorist and Naxal affected areas.

The Indian Parliament on February 25, 2009 authorised the provision of Central Industrial Security Force to provide security to private and cooperative establishments across the country for a fee with the passage of the CISF (Amendment) Act, 2008. The Act also provides for deployment of CISF to protect Indian missions abroad and its participation in the UN peacekeeping operations.

The CISF started providing security to the Infosys Bangalore campus in 2009. Infosys Mysore, Reliance Refinery, Jamnagar and the Delhi Metro Airport Express Line are the latest additions to the list of private sector establishments to be placed under CISF cover.

► 11.1.5 Sashastra Seema Bal(SSB)

The SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) is a border guarding Force. SSB is headed by an IPS officer and is under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Its primary role is to guard India's international border with Nepal and Bhutan. It was formerly known as the Special Service Bureau.

SSB (Special Service Bureau) was set up in early 1963 in the wake of the Sino-Indian War. The primary tasks of the force were to provide armed support for RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) and to inculcate feelings of national belonging in the border population and develop their capabilities for resistance through a continuous process of motivation, training, development, welfare programmes and activities in the then NEFA, North Assam(northern areas of Assam state), North Bengal (northern areas of West Bengal state), hills of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.

SSB was renamed as 'Sashastra Seema Bal' in accordance with its new role and came under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the year 2001. This was done after the Kargil War when 'one border one force' concept was adopted. SSB was assigned the duty of manning the 1,751 km long Indo-Nepal Border in 2001. In March 2004, SSB was assigned the task of guarding the 699 km stretch of Indo-Bhutan border along the states of Sikkim, West Bengal, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. SSB is also the first border guarding force which has decided to recruit women battalions.

SSB is also engaged in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and anti-naxal operations in Jharkhand and Bihar. It is also performing internal security duties, i.e. election duties and law and order duties, in different parts of India.

The role of SSB comprises the following:

- To promote sense of security among the people living in the border areas
- To prevent trans-border crimes and unauthorised entry or exit from the territory of India
- To prevent smuggling and other illegal activities

➤ 11.1.6 National Security Guard (NSG)

The National Security Guard (NSG) is a special force set up in 1984 as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force that has primarily been utilised for counter-terrorism activities and was created by the Cabinet Secretariat under the National Security Guard Act of the Indian Parliament in 1986. It works completely within the Central Armed Police Forces structure. NSG is a 100% deputation force and all personnel posted are on deputation from Army, CAPs, State police and other organisation. Its primary task is to engage and neutralise terrorist threats in specific situations and undertake counter hijack and hostage rescue missions. They are also assigned the task of providing mobile security protection to VVIPs. The NSG is an elite force providing a second line of defence to the nation. They have played a pivotal role in safeguarding the unity of India and have commendably foiled attempts of anti-national elements to tear apart the social fabric of the country. The NSG has maintained an edge over terrorist outfits in the possession of latest technology. They are considered among the best special operations units in the world. NSG is headed by an IPS Officer and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The NSG's specific goals include:

- Neutralisation of terrorist threats
- Handling hijacking situations in air and on land
- Bomb disposal (search, detection and neutralisation of IEDs)
- Engaging and neutralising terrorists in specific situations
- Hostage rescue

NSG performed *Operation Black Tornado* and *Operation Cyclone* to flush out terrorists and rescue hostages after multiple attacks across Mumbai in the 26/11 attack in 2008. Four new NSG hubs were established in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata after this incident.

The National Bomb Data Centre (NBBC) under NSG maintains the National Bomb Data Centre at Manesar and conducts post blast studies in various parts of the country mostly on request from State authorities. It maintains a data bank on explosives and incidents of blasts which may be of use to security forces.

➤ 11.1.7 Special Protection Group (SPG)

The Special Protection Group (SPG) is the executive protection agency of the Government of India. It is responsible for the protection of the Prime Minister of India, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members. The Force is under the control of the Cabinet Secretariat.

The force was established in 1985 after the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi, erstwhile Prime Minister. It provides proximate security to the protected, including protection provided from close quarters, journey on foot, road, rail, aircraft, watercraft or any other means of transport, and includes places of functions, engagements, residence, etc. They comprise of ring round teams, isolation cordons, the sterile zone, and the rostrum and access control to the person or members of his immediate family.

► 11.1.8 Railway Protection Force (RPF)

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of the Indian Railways is entrusted with the task of protecting the lifeline of the country namely the Indian Railways. The strength of RPF is about 65,000.

The duties of the Railway Protection Force include:

- To engage in all conducive means for the free movement of the railways
- Protection and safeguarding of railway property
- Protection and safeguarding of passengers, their belongings and passenger areas

Originally the force was called Watch & Ward and it functioned under the administrative control of railway administration. Later on, this force was renamed as Railway Protection Force and its members were provided with the power to arrest without warrant for the unlawful possession of railway property. The term railway property included only the properties owned by the railway administration. In due course of time, the definition for the term Railway Property was extended and it included the properties owned by, or in the charge of or entrusted with the railways. The offenders are booked under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act 1966 which is shortly known as RP (UP) Act 1966. Now the Railway Protection Force has a separate administrative system and functions under the general supervision of the Railway Administration.

► 11.2 Central Paramilitary Forces (CPMFs)

Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) Assam Rifles and Indian Coast Guard are the main CPMFs after reclassification.

Assam Rifles Assam Rifles is fondly known as 'Friends of the North East People'. It is the oldest Para Military Force in the Country with its Headquarter at Shillong. The Force is completely deployed in the North East and is mandated for dual role of maintaining internal security in the North East and guarding the Indo-Myanmar border. It is led and head by Army officers. It assists Indian armed forces but reports to MHA. It is under administrative control of MHA but operates under Army.

Indian Coast Guard Its mission is the protection of India's maritime interests and enforcement of maritime law; with jurisdiction over the territorial waters

of India, including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone. It operates under the Ministry of Defence. After the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the government initiated a program to expand the ICG force, assets and infrastructure. The force is expected to be tripled between 2010 and 2019 in manpower, vessels and aircraft.

► **11.3 Security Agencies and their Mandates**

► **11.3.1 Intelligence Bureau (IB)**

The Intelligence Bureau (IB) is India's internal intelligence agency and reputedly the world's oldest intelligence agency. It was recast as the Central Intelligence Bureau in 1947 under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Serving since December 2012, Syed Asif Ibrahim is the current director of the IB.

The Bureau comprises employees from law enforcement agencies, mostly from the Indian Police Service (IPS) and the military. However, the Director of Intelligence Bureau (DIB) has always been an IPS officer. In addition to domestic intelligence responsibilities, the IB is particularly entrusted with intelligence collection in border areas, following the 1951 recommendations of the Himmat Singh Committee (also known as the North and North-east Border Committee). Prior to 1947, this task was entrusted to military intelligence organisations. All spheres of human activity within India and in the neighbourhood are allocated to the charter of duties of the Intelligence Bureau. The IB is used to garner intelligence from within India and also execute counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism tasks.

The Intelligence Bureau reportedly has a lot of successes to its credit, but operations conducted by the IB are rarely declassified. Due to the extreme secrecy surrounding the agency, there is little concrete information available about it or its activities.

The IB was initially India's internal and external intelligence agency. After the Sino-Indian War of 1962, and later on, India-Pakistan War in 1965, it was bifurcated in 1968 and entrusted with the task of internal intelligence only.

IB is the main coordinating agency regarding counter-terrorism. It coordinates with various states' police all over the country.

The IB has had mixed success in counter-terrorism. It was reported in 2008 that the IB had been successful in busting terror modules. It alerted the police before the Hyderabad blasts and gave repeated warnings of a possible attack on Mumbai through the sea before the November 2008 Mumbai attacks.

► **11.3.2 National Investigation Agency (NIA)**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a federal agency established by the Indian government to combat terror in India. It acts as the central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency. The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states. The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Parliament on December 31, 2008.

NIA was created after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks as the need for a central agency to combat terrorism were realised. The founding Director-General of NIA was Radha Vinod Raju, and he served till January 31, 2010. He was succeeded by Sharad Chandra Sinha till March 2013 when he was appointed the member of the National Human Rights Commission of India. In July 2013, Sharad Kumar was appointed as the Chief of NIA.

The Agency has been empowered to conduct investigation and prosecution of offenses under the Acts specified in the Schedule of the NIA Act. A State Government may request the Central Government to hand over the investigation of a case to the NIA, provided the case has been registered for the offenses as contained in the schedule to the NIA Act. Central Government can also order NIA to take over investigation of any scheduled offense anywhere in India. Officers of the NIA who are drawn from the Indian Police Service and the Indian Revenue Service have all powers, privileges and liabilities which the police officers have in connection with investigation of any offense. In recent times, the NIA has had big successes in busting an IM module and arresting its key functionaries.

Multi Agency Centre (MAC)

MAC is a multi-agency centre for counter-terrorism whose mandate is to share terrorism related inputs on a day-to-day basis.

Multi Agency Centre (MAC) was created at Delhi and Subsidiary Multi Agency Centres (SMACs) in various states comprising representatives from various security agencies, for streamlining intelligence efforts. Later, the Union Home Minister reviewed the security situation and issued Multi Agency Centre (functions, powers and duties) Order, 2008 on December 31, 2008. MAC-SMAC is functioning since 2002 and has been reoperationalised with effect from 2009. As a follow up of the above order, 24x7 Control Rooms have been set up at Multi Agency Centre (MAC) at New Delhi and the Subsidiary Multi Agency Centres (SMACs) at State Level and at Headquarters of Intelligence Wings of other agencies to ensure timely sharing of information and better co-ordination between intelligence agencies. Daily meetings of Nodal Officers of 25 member agencies are being conducted on every working day. Presently, MAC-SMAC network has 416 nodes spread across the country and connected to MAC HQ at New Delhi. This includes 31 SMAC HQs and 32 SSBs located at State Capitals (More details on MAC is given in Chapter 2).

National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

The National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID is an integrated intelligence grid that will link the databases of several departments and ministries of the Government of India so as to collect comprehensive patterns of intelligence that can be readily accessed by intelligence agencies. It was first proposed in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Mumbai in 2008 and was to be operational in 2013 but is yet to happen.

NATGRID is an intelligence sharing network that collates data from the standalone databases of various agencies and ministries of the Indian

government. It is a counter-terrorism measure that collects and collates a host of information from government databases, including tax and bank account details, credit card transactions, visa and immigration records and itineraries of rail and air travel. This combined data will be made available to 11 central agencies—Research and Analysis Wing, the Intelligence Bureau, Central Bureau of Investigation, Financial Intelligence Unit, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau, Central Board of Excise and Customs and the Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence.

Unlike the NCIC and the NIA which are central organisations, the NATGRID is essentially a tool that will enable security agencies to locate and obtain relevant information on terror suspects from pooled data of various organisations and services in the country. It will help identify, capture and prosecute terrorists and help pre-empt terrorist plots.

PROBABLE QUESTIONS BASED ON THIS CHAPTER

1. What do you understand by Central Armed Police Force?
2. What is the mandate of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)?
3. What is the role of MAC and NATGRID in strengthening internal security?