



Operation NARCOS

Why in News?

Recently, the [Railway Protection Force](#) recovered narcotics products valued over **Rs. 7.40 Crore** under **Operation NARCOS**.

What are the Key Highlights related to Operation NARCOS?

- In order to bring attention to the menace of [Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances](#), a month-long **pan India drive against smuggling of narcotics through rail** was launched under code name **Operation “NARCOS”** in the month of June-2022.
- RPF intensified its checks in trains and in **identified black spots across the country** in coordination with [Narcotics Control Bureau](#) and other **Law Enforcement Agencies** to target drug peddlers involved in this illegal trade.

What is the Railway Protection Force?

- The **contingent of RPF is an Armed Force of the Union of India**. It is a **security force** under the **ownership of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways**.
- The history of the RPF dates back to 1882 when various railway companies appointed their own guards for protection of railway property.
 - The **force was declared a statutory force in 1957 by an enactment of Parliament**, subsequently **declared as an [Armed Force of the Union](#) of India in 1985**.
- RPF has been entrusted with **responsibility for the safety of Railway property**.

What are the other Initiatives of RPF?

- **Operation AAHT:**
 - Special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.
- **Meri Saheli Initiative:**
 - The initiative will focus on the safety of women passengers. It was launched as a pilot project in South Eastern Railway in September 2020. It was then extended to all zones.
- **Operation Yatri Surakhsha:**
 - Under “Operation Yatri Surakhsha”, RPF also supports state police in the fighting against passenger crime.
- **Operation Nanhe Farishte:**
 - It saved 1,045 children who were found alone or were abandoned at the railway stations.

[Source: PIB](#)

