



## Various Security Forces and Their Mandate

**For Prelims:** [Central Armed Police Forces \(CAPFs\)](#), [Assam Rifles \(AR\)](#), [Border Security Force \(BSF\)](#), [Central Industrial Security Force \(CISF\)](#), [Central Reserve Police Force \(CRPF\)](#), [Indo Tibetan Border Police \(ITBP\)](#), [National Security Guard \(NSG\)](#), [Sashastra Seema Bal \(SSB\)](#)

**For Mains:** Mandates of Various Security Forces in India, Role of Security Forces in Security Border and Internal Security.

### What is the Framework of the Security Forces in India?

The Indian security framework comprises the [Indian Armed Forces](#), [Central Armed Police Forces](#) and the [Strategic Force Command](#), all of which play a vital role in ensuring the nation's security.

- **Law and Order Responsibility:**
  - Law and order is primarily a state responsibility, with most policing functions managed by individual states and union territories.
  - Major cities have metropolitan police forces operating under their respective state governments.
- **Federal Law Enforcement Oversight:**
  - Most federal law enforcement agencies are regulated by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, which coordinates internal security efforts.
- **Mandates and Ministry Oversight:**
  - **External Security:** This is primarily managed by the Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - **Internal Security:** The Ministry of Home Affairs oversees this aspect, with support from the Defence Ministry, addressing challenges such as insurgency, separatism, and civil unrest.
- **Types of Security Forces:**
  - **Indian Armed Forces:** Responsible for external security and national defense.
  - **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs):** Also referred to as [Paramilitary Forces](#), they focus on internal security, law enforcement, and border protection.
- **Specialized Units:**
  - The security framework includes dedicated Special Forces across various branches.
  - Specialized units for [Anti-Terrorism](#), **Urban Warfare**, and **VIP Protection** are equipped to handle [counter-terrorism operations](#) and urban conflicts, ensuring security during high-risk situations and for vulnerable individuals.

### What is the Organizational Structure of Indian Armed Forces?

- **About Indian Armed Forces:**
  - The Indian Armed Forces consist of:
    - **Indian Army:** Responsible for land-based operations.
    - **Indian Navy:** For protecting maritime interests.
    - **Indian Air Force:** For providing aerial defense.

- These uniformed services are supported by the [Indian Coast Guard](#), **paramilitary forces**, and other organizations.
- The [President of India](#) is the supreme commander of the Indian Armed Forces.
- The Cabinet is responsible for national defense, which is carried out through the **Ministry of Defence**, providing the policy and resources for the Armed Forces to defend the country.
- The Government of India is responsible for defending India and its territories.
- **Indian Army:**
  - The Indian Army, or **Bhartiya Thal Sena**, is the land-based component of India's armed forces, tracing its origins to the armed forces of the [East India Company](#).
  - It evolved into the British Indian Army and subsequently the Indian Army after independence.
    - **Leadership:** The Indian Army is commanded by the [Chief of Army Staff \(COAS\)](#).
    - **Size and Ranking:** It is recognized as the second-largest active army in the world.
    - **Mission:** The primary mission of the Indian Army is to ensure national security by defending India's [sovereignty](#), territorial [integrity](#), and harmony against external aggression and threats.
    - **Humanitarian Role:** In addition to its defense responsibilities, the Indian Army also provides humanitarian support and aid [during natural disasters](#) and [emergencies](#).
- The [Para Commandos](#) are the most well-known of the [Indian Army's special forces](#), undertaking operations behind enemy lines, anti-terrorist and counterinsurgency missions, as well as rescue operations during natural disasters.
- **Indian Navy:**
  - The **Indian Navy** is a well-balanced and cohesive three-dimensional force capable of operating above, on, and below the ocean surface, effectively safeguarding national interests.
    - **Leadership:** The Navy is commanded by the [Chief of the Naval Staff \(CNS\)](#) from the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy), assisted by the **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)** and three Principal Staff Officers: the **Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS)**, the **Chief of Personnel (COP)**, and the [Chief of Material \(COM\)](#).
    - **Commands:** The Navy has three primary commands:
      - **Western Naval Command** (Mumbai) - Operational Command for the Arabian Sea.
      - **Eastern Naval Command** (Visakhapatnam) - Operational Command for the Bay of Bengal.
      - **Southern Naval Command** (Kochi) - Training Command.
    - **Fleets and Flotillas:** The Navy's operational capability is enhanced by two main fleets: the **Western Fleet** based in Mumbai and the **Eastern Fleet** based in Visakhapatnam. There are also flotillas stationed in Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, and Port Blair for local naval defense.
    - **Naval Presence:** Naval ships are stationed along the east and west coasts and island territories, ensuring a sustained naval presence in critical areas.
    - **Andaman & Nicobar Command:** The defense of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a joint responsibility of all three armed services, coordinated by the **Andaman & Nicobar Command** in Port Blair, which is the only tri-service command in the Indian Armed Forces, led by a [Commander-in-Chief](#) appointed in rotation.
    - **Lakshadweep Islands:** Local naval defense of the [Lakshadweep Islands](#) is managed by the **Naval Officer-in-Charge, Lakshadweep**.
  - The [Marine Commando Force \(MCF\)](#), also known as **MARCOS**, is a **Special Forces unit of the Indian Navy** that specializes in anti-terrorism, anti-piracy, and other special operations.
- **Indian Airforce:**
  - The Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 and is the 4th largest air force in the world after the US, Russia and China.
  - Its primary responsibility is to **secure the Indian airspace** and conduct aerial warfare during conflicts.

- It has participated in many [United Nations \(UN\) peacekeeping missions](#).
- The [Chief of Air Staff \(an Air Marshal\)](#) is the commander of the air forces in India.
- The **Garud Commando Force** is the **special forces unit of the Indian Air Force**, engaged in airfield protection, suppression of enemy air defense, search and rescue, and humanitarian aid.

## What is the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)?

### ▪ About:

- The position of [Chief of Defence Staff \(CDS\)](#) was recommended in 2001 by a Group of Ministers (GoM) reviewing the [Kargil Review Committee's report](#).
- To prepare for this role, the **Integrated Defence Staff** was established in 2002. The CDS post was **officially created in 2019** following recommendations from a defense expert committee led by Lt General DB Shekatkar, with **General Bipin Rawat serving** as the first CDS from December 31, 2019.

### ▪ Roles and Responsibilities:

- The CDS primary role is to **enhance operational synergy** among the Army, Navy, and Air Force while **minimizing inter-service frictions**.
- He **heads the Department of Military Affairs (DMA)**, acting as the **principal military advisor** to the Defence Minister.
- While service chiefs advise on their respective areas, the CDS **prioritizes inter-service procurement** and **provides directives without command authority** over the forces.

### ▪ Significance:

- **Synergy:** The CDS improves communication and cooperation between the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces, expediting decision-making.
- **Joint Operations:** As the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), the CDS focuses on administering tri-service organizations, enhancing operational jointness.
- **Theatre Command:** The establishment of the DMA will facilitate joint/theater commands, with the CDS overseeing deployment across land, sea, and air.
- **Nuclear Command:** The CDS will play a key role in the [Nuclear Command Authority \(NCA\)](#) and oversee the Strategic Forces Command, enhancing India's nuclear deterrence.
- **Resource Prioritization:** The CDS will prioritize capital acquisition proposals amid shrinking defense budgets.

## // THE SEVEN CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES



AR



BSF



CISF



CRPF



ITBP



NSG



SSB

## What are the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)?

- **About:**
  - The **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** are a group of seven armed police organizations that were formerly known as the Paramilitary Forces.
- **Forces Under CAPFs:**
  - [Assam Rifles \(AR\)](#)
  - [Border Security Force \(BSF\)](#)
  - [Central Industrial Security Force \(CISF\)](#)
  - [Central Reserve Police Force \(CRPF\)](#)
  - [Indo Tibetan Border Police \(ITBP\)](#)
  - [National Security Guard \(NSG\)](#)
  - [Sashastra Seema Bal \(SSB\)](#)
- **Administration:**
  - While these forces function under the administrative oversight of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, the operational control of the **Assam Rifles** lies with the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.
  - All CAPFs are led by officers of the rank of Director General of Police (DGP).
- **Organization of CAPF:**
  - **Border Guarding Forces:**
    - **Assam Rifles (AR), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** are designated as border guarding forces.
  - **Special Operations:**
    - **National Security Guard (NSG)** functions as a specialized commando unit for high-stakes operations.
    - **Special Protection Group (SPG)** for providing proximate security to the **Prime Minister (PM)** and former PM and their immediate family members.
  - **Internal Security:**
    - **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** is responsible for securing industrial facilities and critical installations.
    - **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** supports civil authorities in maintaining law and order, tackling internal security challenges, and engaging in counterinsurgency operations.
- **Assam Rifles (AR):**
  - **About:**
    - The Assam Rifles is one of the oldest **Central Paramilitary Forces** in India.
    - It was established in **1835** as the '[Cachar Levy](#)' to protect British tea estates from tribal raids.
    - It played a pivotal role in opening the Assam region to administration and commerce, earning the designation of the "right arm of the civil and left arm of the military."
  - **Current Deployment:**
    - The force maintains two battalions in **Jammu and Kashmir** and has a [National Disaster Relief Force \(NDRF\)](#) battalion actively engaged in responding to natural calamities.
    - Additionally, the inclusion of the **Riflewomen Team of the Assam Rifles** in **UN peacekeeping missions** reflects India's commitment to social and humanitarian efforts on the global stage.
  - **Major Post-Independence Roles:**
    - Engaged in conventional combat during the [Sino-India War of 1962](#).
    - Participated in international operations as part of the **Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka** in **1987** ([Operation Pawan](#)).
    - Played a peacekeeping role in the **northeastern regions** of India.
  - **Dual Control:**
    - Assam Rifles is the only paramilitary force with a dual control structure, where the administrative control is with the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the operational control is with the Indian Army under the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**.
- **Border Security Force (BSF)**

- **About:**

- The Border Security Force (BSF) is a paramilitary force established in India in 1965 primarily for guarding the country's land borders and maintaining peace and security in border areas.

- **Responsibilities:**

- **Peacetime Responsibilities:**

- **Promoting Security:** Fostering a sense of security among communities in border regions.
- **Preventing Cross-Border Crimes:** Thwarting unauthorized entry into or exit from Indian territory.
- **Combating Smuggling:** Preventing smuggling and other illicit activities along the border.

- **Wartime Responsibilities:**

- **Holding Ground:** Maintaining positions in less threatened sectors to allow the Army to focus on offensive operations. BSF units may remain deployed in specific areas unless a major attack occurs.
- **Protection of Vital Installations:** Safeguarding critical infrastructure, such as airfields, against enemy attacks.
- **Limited Aggressive Actions:** Conducting limited offensive operations against the enemy's irregular forces, in line with broader military strategies.
- **Intelligence and Raids:** Executing special intelligence-related tasks, including raids, as assigned by the Army based on operational needs.
- **Local Guidance:** Serving as guides in familiar areas to aid in navigation.
- **Law and Order Maintenance:** Upholding law and order in areas under Army control, supplementing civil police efforts when necessary.
- **Providing Escorts:** Offering escort services in various operations.
- **Guarding POWs:** Securing prisoner of war camps.
- **Refugee Control:** Assisting with the management of refugees, utilizing civil police and local forces when available.
- **Anti-Infiltration Duties:** Conducting operations to prevent infiltration in specified regions, with specific responsibilities still being defined.
- **Joint Operations:** The BSF often collaborates with other military and paramilitary forces for joint operations, especially during heightened security situations.

- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**

- **About:**

- The ITBP was established on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1962.
- It is responsible for guarding the Indo-Tibetan border and the mountainous regions of the 3,488 km long India-China border, monitoring the northern borders of India.
- In 2004, the ITBP replaced the Assam Rifles in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The force secures the Indo-China border across the following states:
  - Jammu & Kashmir
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Uttarakhand
  - Sikkim
  - Arunachal Pradesh

- **Responsibilities:**

- ITBP plays a crucial role in detecting and preventing border violations, as well as monitoring illegal immigration and trans-border smuggling.
- Additionally, it has participated in various United Nations peacekeeping missions in countries such as Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Haiti, Western Sahara, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and Sudan.
- ITBP conducts relief and rescue operations as '**First Responders**' for natural calamities in the Himalayan region, responding in hundreds of search, rescue & relief operations over the years to provide succor to thousands of citizens in distress due to various calamities.

- **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**

- **About:**

- **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** was established as the **Special Service Bureau** in

- **May 1963** in response to the [Chinese aggression of 1962](#).
- It came under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** in January 2001 and was designated as the **Lead Intelligence Agency** for the **Indo-Nepal border** in June 2001, later expanding to the Indo-Bhutan border in March 2004.
- The SSB received the [President's Colors](#) in recognition of its vital role in national security.
- **Responsibilities:**
  - The SSB aims to promote **security in border areas, prevent trans-border crimes and unauthorized entry or exit, and combat smuggling.**
  - Its personnel are empowered under the [Criminal Procedure Code, 1973](#) to carry out these duties effectively.
- **Community Engagement:**
  - SSB actively engages with communities in 78,000 villages across 15 border states, earning the title of a "[Peoples Force.](#)"
  - This engagement has fostered proactive citizenship and involvement in national security.
- **Historical Contributions:**
  - The SSB has played a significant role in various national efforts, including the [Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971](#), disaster relief during the 1968 floods in North Bengal, and the **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF)** operations in Sri Lanka in 1987.
  - Its contributions extend to **internal security operations, election duties, and providing specialized training** for intelligence agencies.
  - It has been involved in disaster relief during major calamities, establishing its reputation among paramilitary forces.

## Which Security Forces are Responsible for Special Operations in India?

### ▪ National Security Guards (NSG)

#### ◦ About:

- The [National Security Guard \(NSG\)](#) was created in **1984** as a **federal contingency force to tackle terrorism.**
- Its mission is to **train, equip, and keep in readiness a special force** capable of swiftly and effectively combating terrorism, living up to its [motto 'Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha'](#).

#### ◦ Structure:

- It was modeled on the **Special Air Service (SAS)** of the UK and GSG-9 of Germany, with two complementary elements - the [Special Action Group \(SAG\)](#) comprising Army personnel and the [Special Ranger Groups \(SRG\)](#) comprising personnel from Central Armed Police Forces and State Police Forces.

#### ◦ Roles:

- The NSG commandos are tasked with neutralizing terrorist threats, handling hijack situations (both in air and on land), and engaging terrorists in high-risk scenarios.
- Their roles include bomb disposal (detection and neutralization of IEDs), conducting Post Blast Investigations (PBI), and rescuing hostages in kidnap situations.
- Additionally, NSG commandos are trained for specialized operations in counter-terrorism, counter-hijacking, and bomb disposal, and they provide 'close protection' to designated high-risk individuals.
- They played a crucial role in countering the [26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks](#).

### ▪ Special Protection Group (SPG):

- It was established in 1985 to provide security cover to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers, and their immediate family members.
- It was created after the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. **Parliament** passed the [SPG Act, 1988](#) dedicating the group to protecting the PM of India.
- After Rajiv Gandhi's assassination (1991), the SPG Act was amended, offering SPG protection to all former Prime Ministers and their families for a period of at least 10 years.
- SPG officers are known for their **high leadership qualities, professionalism, and knowledge of proximate security.**
- They work in collaboration with the [Intelligence Bureau \(IB\)](#) and State/ UT police forces to enhance overall security arrangements.

## ▪ Indian Coast Guard:

### ◦ About:

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** was established as an independent Armed Force in August **1978** by the [Coast Guard Act, 1978](#).
- It was established after the [India-Pakistan war 1978](#) based on the recommendations of the [Rustamji Committee](#), which envisioned a multi-dimensional coast guard force.
- It operates through five regional headquarters across India for effective maritime command.
- It plays a critical role in securing India's maritime zones under the **Ministry of Defence**.

### ◦ Roles:

- **Maritime Law Enforcement:** The ICG monitors and **prevents smuggling** through India's maritime routes, exercising jurisdiction over [territorial waters](#), [contiguous zones](#), and the [Exclusive Economic Zone \(EEZ\)](#).
- **Environmental Protection:** It is responsible for **marine environment protection**, including coordination for oil spill responses within Indian waters.
- **Aid to Civil Authority:** The ICG assists civil authorities during [floods](#), [cyclones](#), and other natural calamities, most recently in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Goa.
- **Maritime Security:** Working with neighboring countries, the ICG addresses transnational maritime crimes and promotes maritime safety in the [Indian Ocean Region](#) under policies like [SAGAR \(Security and Growth for All in the Region\)](#) and **Neighbourhood First**.
- **Disaster Management:** It is known as the "**First Responder**" in the region, the ICG has averted major ecological disasters through operations like '[Sagar Aaraksha-II](#)' during the MV X-Press Pearl incident off the coast of Sri Lanka.

## Which Security Forces are Responsible for India's Internal Security?

### ▪ Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):

#### ◦ About:

- CISF was established in **1969** with an initial three battalions to secure **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)**. It has expanded to become a **multi-skilled security agency** safeguarding critical national infrastructure.

#### ◦ Core Responsibilities:

- Protects **nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, and power plants**.
- Secures key **government buildings, Delhi Metro, Parliament House** Complex, and **central jails** in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Safeguards **iconic heritage monuments**.
- Provides **fire services** to 115 establishments under its security cover.
- It provides **VIP Security by operating a specialized unit** offering 24/7 security to important protectees.

### ▪ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):

#### ◦ About:

- CRPF is one of India's premier **Central Armed Police Forces** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- It plays a critical role in **maintaining internal security**.

#### ◦ Historical Background:

- Initially formed in **1939** as the **Crown Representative Police**, the CRPF is **one of India's oldest paramilitary forces**.
- It was renamed as the Central Reserve Police Force through an Act of Parliament in 1949, following Independence.
- It contributed to **integrating princely states into the Indian Union** post-Independence, particularly in **Junagarh** and **Kathiawar** in Gujarat, aiding in bringing these territories into the fold of the Indian Union.

#### ◦ Responsibilities:

- Crowd and riot control
- Counter-militancy and insurgency operations

- Managing Left-Wing Extremism
- Providing VIP and vital installation security
- Environmental protection, including flora and fauna preservation
- Combat roles during wartime
- Participation in UN peacekeeping missions
- Rescue and relief operations during natural disasters.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Years Questions (PYQs)

**Q. What is “Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)”, sometimes seen in the news? (2018)**

- (a) An Israeli radar system
- (b) India’s indigenous anti-missile programme
- (c) An American anti-missile system
- (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea

**Ans: c**

**Q. Consider the following in respect of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS): (2017)**

1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.
2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (b)**

**Q Which one of the following is the best description of ‘INS Astradharini’, that was in the news recently? (2016)**

- (a) Amphibious warfare ship
- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- (d) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

**Ans: (c)**

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### **Mains:**

**Q. How is S-400 air defence system technically superior to any other system presently available in the world? (2021)**