



61st Raising Day of SSB

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Home Minister attended the **61st Raising Day function** of [Sashastra Seema Bal \(SSB\)](#) at **Siliguri** in West Bengal.

- He lauded the role of SSB in protecting the [Siliguri Corridor](#), gateway to Northeast and Sikkim and surrounded by **three International borders**.

What is Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)?

- **About:** SSB is a part of the [Central Armed Police Forces \(CAPF\)](#) and guards India's border with **Nepal (1,751 km) and Bhutan (699 km)**.
 - It is **one** of the seven **paramilitary forces** in India (Others 6: [Assam Rifles](#), [Border Security Force](#), [Central Industrial Security Force](#), [Central Reserve Police Force](#), [Indo Tibetan Border Police](#) and [National Security Guard](#)).
- **Formation:** It was established as the **Special Service Bureau** in **May 1963**, in the aftermath of the [Chinese aggression in 1962](#).
 - It comes under the aegis of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Recognition:** SSB is the **first central paramilitary force** that included **women** in its ranks.
 - In March 2004, SSB was awarded the [President's Colours](#) for its key role in national security.
 - The President's Colours is the **highest honour** that can be bestowed upon any military unit.

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CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES (CAPF)

The CAPF includes the seven security forces in India functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Assam Rifles (AR)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1835, as militia called 'Cachar Levy'
 - ↳ **Erstwhile objective:** To protect British Tea estates
- ↳ **Current Objectives:**
 - ↳ Conducting anti-terrorist operations in NER
 - ↳ Ensuring security at India-China and India-Myanmar borders
- ↳ **Imp Role in:**
 - ↳ Sino-India War 1962
 - ↳ Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka (1987)

Due to long association with tribal belts, Assam Rifles are also called 'Friends of the North East'

Border Security Force (BSF)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1965
- ↳ **Objectives:**
 - ↳ Securing land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh
 - ↳ Also performing Anti-Infiltration in Kashmir Valley
 - ↳ Counter Insurgency in NER
 - ↳ Anti-Naxal Operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh
- ↳ **Wings:** Air wing, marine wing, an artillery regiment, and commando units

BSF is India's First Line of Defence and the world's largest border guarding force

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- ↳ **Pre-Independence Origin:** 1939 (Crown Representative's Police)
- ↳ **Post Independence:** 1949 - under CRPF Act, became Central Reserve Police Force
- ↳ **Objective:** Crowd control, riot control, counter militancy/insurgency operations, etc.

CRPF is the principle central police force for internal security

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1962
- ↳ **Objectives:**
 - ↳ Deployed on border from Karakoram Pass (Ladakh) to Jachep La (Arunachal Pradesh) (~3488 km of Indo-China Border)
 - ↳ Manning Border Outposts on altitudes 9000 ft - 18700 ft in Western, Middle and Eastern sectors of Indo-China Border

ITBP is India's specialised mountain force & the first responder to natural disasters

National Security Guard (NSG)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1984 (came into being in 1986), following **Operation Blue Star**
- ↳ **Objectives:** Counter-terrorism unit/Federal Contingency Force
- ↳ **Task-oriented Force - Two complementary elements:**
 - ↳ Special Action Group (SAG)
 - ↳ Special Ranger Groups (SRG)

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- ↳ **Origin:** 1963
- ↳ **Objectives:**
 - ↳ Guarding Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders
 - ↳ Enhance border security, curb trans-border crimes, prevent unauthorised entry/exit, halt smuggling, etc.

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- ↳ **Origin:** Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968
- ↳ **Objectives:** Ensuring security of major critical infrastructure installations

CISF is the sole CAPF unit with a specialised fire wing



What is Siliguri Corridor?

- **About:** The Siliguri Corridor is a **narrow stretch of land**, approximately **60 km long** and **17-22 km wide**. It is referred to as the '**Chicken Neck**' due to its **narrow shape**.
- **Location:** Located between **Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh**, it is the **only land link** between India and its northeastern states.
 - It is located in **West Bengal**.
- **Importance:** It plays a vital role in **military logistics**, offering key routes for road and railway

networks that facilitate the movement of armed forces.

- Non-access to Siliguri Corridor, would **isolate India's northeastern region**, severing supply lines and reinforcements.



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