



60th Raising Day of BSF

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Why in News?

On **1st December, 2024**, Prime Minister extended his greetings to the [Border Security Force \(BSF\)](#) on their **60th Raising Day**, emphasizing the importance of the force in safeguarding India's borders.

What is BSF?

- About: BSF was established in 1965 following the [India-Pakistan war](#) to enhance border security.
 - The BSF has an **air wing, marine wing, an artillery regiment, and commando units**.
 - It works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Deployment:** The BSF, comprising approximately **2.6 lakh personnel**, is deployed on the **Indo-Pakistan International Border, Indo-Bangladesh International Border, Line of Control (LoC)** along with the Indian Army and in [Anti-Naxal Operations](#) regions.
- **Specialized Operations:** The BSF plays a crucial role in safeguarding areas such as [Sir Creek in the Arabian Sea](#) and the [Sundarbans delta](#) in the Bay of Bengal, utilizing a modern fleet of watercraft.
 - Additionally, it contributes to the [UN peacekeeping Mission](#) by deploying trained personnel to various global locations each year.
- **Jurisdiction of BSF:** The BSF secures India's borders and is empowered to arrest, search, and seize under various laws, including the [Code of Criminal Procedure \(CrPC\) of 1973](#), Passports Act 1967, [Passport \(Entry into India\) Act 1920](#), and [Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act \(NDPS\), 1985](#).

Note

Under Article 355, the **central government** has the authority to deploy its forces to safeguard a state from **external aggression and internal disturbance**, even in cases where the state has not requested assistance from the Centre and is hesitant to accept **central forces**.

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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



UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. Department of Border Management is a Department of which one of the following Union Ministries? (2008)

- (a) Ministry of Defence
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways
- (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests

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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