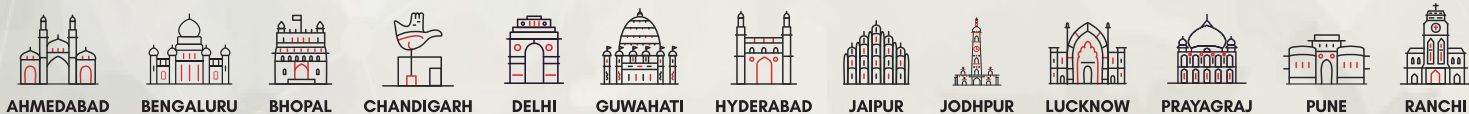


UPDATED VALUE ADDITION MATERIAL 2024

INTERNAL SECURITY



VARIOUS SECURITY FORCES AND AGENCIES AND THEIR MANDATE



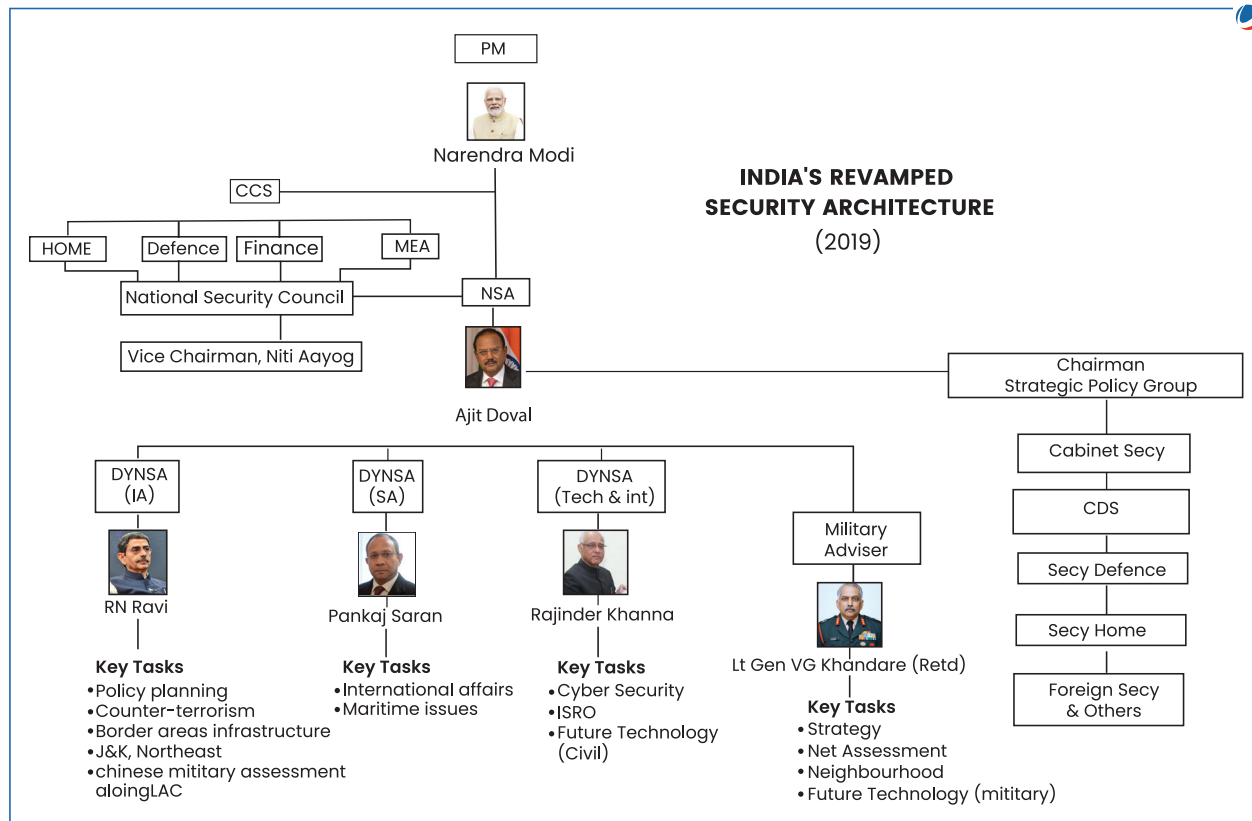
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1. National Security Architecture of India



Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)

- It is the apex body for executive action on matters of national security.
- CCS is responsible for Political oversight and decision making on national security ensuring the democratic principle of civilian and political control of the apparatus.
- Both National Security Council and CCS have a common membership which helps in easier decision making and implementation.

Strategic Policy Group (SPG)

- It is mandated to publish National Defense Review- a draft of short term and long-term security threats and defense matters for consideration of NSC.
- The SPG shall be the principal mechanism for inter-ministerial coordination and integration of relevant inputs in the formulation of national security policies.
- The Cabinet Secretary will coordinate the implementation of SPG decisions by the Union Ministries and departments and State governments.

Defence Planning Committee

- It is tasked to recommend policy measures to improve India's defence capability and preparedness, and national security in general.
- To assist in the creation of national security strategy, international defence engagement strategy, roadmap to build a defence manufacturing ecosystem, strategy to boost defence exports, and priority capability development plans.

1.1. Issues in the structure

- **Lack of national security/defence vision:** Ideally, the country should have an overall national security document from which the various agencies and the arms of the armed forces draw their mandate and create their own respective and joint doctrines which would then translate into operational doctrines for tactical engagement.
- **Lack of regular meetings:** Given that the NSC and the Cabinet Committee on Security have exactly the same membership, the former rarely meets which weakens the national security system of the country.
- **Lack of legal power and accountability to parliament:** NSA has no legal powers as per the government's allocation of business rules and it is not accountable to Parliament.
- **Lack of coordination:** There is little conversation between the armed forces and the political class, and even lesser conversation among the various arms of the forces.
- Politicization of the actions of the armed forces.

1.2. Suggestions

- **More accountability and legal formality:** The job of the National Security Adviser needs to be reimagined by making him accountable to the parliament. The **K.C. Pant Task Force** in the late 1990s had recommended the creation of an NSA with the rank of a Cabinet Minister.
- **More powers to NSC:** If the NSC is to be made more useful, the government's allocation of business rules should be amended to give more powers to the NSC and its subordinate organisations, such as the Strategic Policy Group.
- **Increasing professionalism:** Professionalizing the IAS and IDAS cadre and creating a specialized national security cadre with requisite technical expertise.
- **Creation of a coordinating center:** For effective operationalisation of terror related intelligence inputs that was sought to be earlier addressed by setting up a National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC).
- **Manpower policy:** There is need for the manpower policy of the Government for intelligence and security agencies to attract the best talent and to retain them.
- **Comprehensive National Security Strategy:** There is also an urgent need for India to evolve a bipartisan policy on security-governance by developing a Comprehensive National Security Strategy.

2. Indian Armed Forces

- The Indian Armed Forces are the military forces of the Republic of India. It consists of three professional uniformed services: The Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force. Additionally, the Indian Armed Forces are supported by paramilitary organisations and various inter-service commands and institutions such as the Strategic Forces Command, the Andaman and Nicobar Command and the Integrated Defence Staff.
- The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces. The Indian Armed Forces are under the management of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of the Government of India. With strength of over 1.4 million active personnel, it is the world's second-largest military force and has the world's largest volunteer army.
- It also has the third-largest defence budget in the world. As per 2015 Credit Suisse report, the Indian Armed Forces is the world's fifth-most powerful military, whereas the 2020 Global Firepower report lists it as the fourth most-powerful military.

2.1. Integrated Theatre Command

Background

- The Indian armed forces currently have 17 single-service commands. There are 7 commands each of the Army [Northern, Eastern, Southern, Western, Central, South-western and Army Training Command (ARTRAC)].
- Air Force has [Western, Eastern, Southern, South-western, Central, Training and Maintenance].
- Navy has 3 commands [Western, Eastern and Southern].
- Each command is headed by a 4-star rank military officer.
- In addition, there are 2 tri-service commands [Strategic Force Command (SFC)] and Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)] which is headed by rotation by officers from the 3 Services. ANC is an integrated theatre command. The other tri-service command, SFC, looks after the delivery and operational control of the country's nuclear assets. Since it has no specific geographic responsibility and a designated role, it is an integrated functional command, not a theatre command.

What is an Integrated Theatre Command?

- An integrated theatre command envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander (CDS), for geographical theatres that are of security concern.
- A composite and cohesive whole: Enmeshing the three Services together at different levels and placing them under one commander for execution of operational plans.
- Efficacy and Efficiency against the enemy: The integrated theatre commander (CDS) is not answerable to individual Services. He is free to train, equip and exercise his command to make it a cohesive fighting force. The logistic resources required to support his operations are also placed at the disposal of the theatre commander so that he does not have to look for anything when operations are ongoing.

Arguments for

- Avoids duplication, economy of resources and ensures optimum utilisation of available resources.
- With a single commander, you can have all the military assets under him. This will result in combat

efficiency. For example, nations like U.S and China have integrated commands.

- In fact, Chinese border with India has a single command during war times, functions on the principle of consensus. This makes decision making delayed on jointness in operations can become difficult.

Arguments against

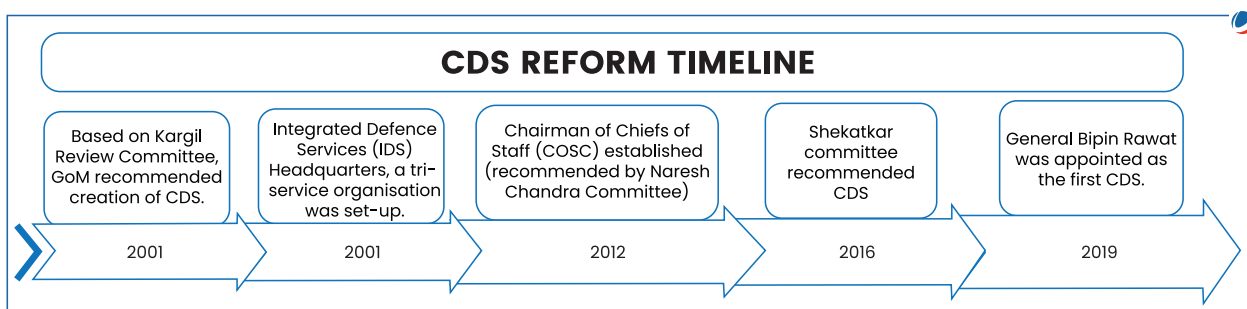
- India is not geographically large enough to be divided into different theatres, as resources from one theatre can easily be moved to another theatre.
- We have shortage of military infrastructure. For example, with only 34 out of 45 fighter squadrons present, dividing already scarce resources is infeasible.
- The US has global roles where it can't move assets from one theatre to another. India has no such problems of distance and time.

Way forward

- Good starting point to the creation of integrated theatre commands has been the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- There has been a demand for other integrated functional commands, such as the cyber, aerospace and Special Operations commands, but the government is yet to approve any.
- Creation of integrated theatre commands will require sustained political will. It must be a phased reform.

2.2. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

CDS, approved in 2019, is the head of Army, Navy and Air Force and is a four-star military officer.



CDS was created to increase efficiency & coordination among the Armed Forces and reduce duplication.

Aimed to

- Achieve better results at all levels through effective coordination between the Armed Forces and the Civil Services.
- Help facilitate inter-service integration and better civilian-military coordination in the Nation's Higher Defence Organisation.
- Strengthen the process of Joint Planning, Operations and Procurement, thereby making Armed Forces more effective and efficient.

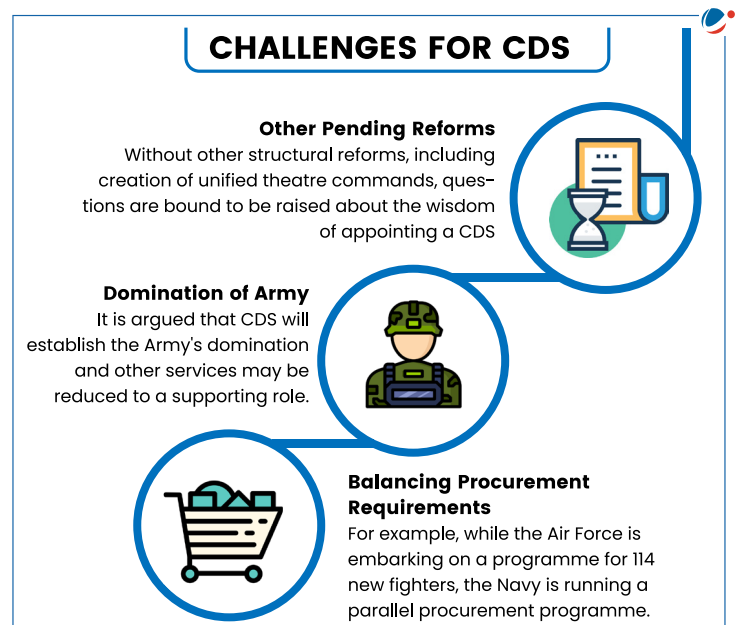
CDS does not exercise any military command, including over the three Service Chiefs, so as to be able to provide impartial advice to the political leadership.

Duties and functions of CDS

- ▶ To **head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA)** in Ministry of Defence (MoD) and function as its secretary.
- ▶ To **act as the Principal Military Advisor to Defence Minister** on all Tri-Service matters.
- ▶ To **function as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee** and to administer the Tri-Service organizations/agencies/commands.
- ▶ To be a **member of Defence Acquisition Council** and function as the Military Advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority.
- ▶ To ensure **optimal utilisation of infrastructure** and rationalise it through jointness among the Services.
- ▶ To **implement Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan and Two-Year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans**, as a follow up of Integrated Capability Development Plan.

Need of CDS

- ▶ **Better advice to political executive:** CDS rises above inter-services rivalry and provide holistic advice on critical issues such as joint strategy and planning, weapons procurement, manpower allocation and joint operations.
- ▶ **Integration of armed forces:** CDS is principally responsible for getting the armed forces better integrated rather than operating in silos.
- ▶ **Constantly changing security dynamic:** Requires India's military needs to be efficient in combat and in averting adversaries, which is achievable only if the military is integrated.
- ▶ **Prioritizing procurement:** CDS can help meet country's military requirements in a manner that operational capabilities of forces are not compromised, and at the same time, needs are met with the available monetary resources.



- ▶ **Global similarity:** Many major countries like Italy, France, China, UK, USA etc. have created the post of CDS to bring more jointness and integration in their Armed Forces

2.3. Women in Combat Role

Women Representation in Armed Forces

- ▶ The Army has 3.80 per cent of its workforce as women, the Air Force has 13.09 per cent and the Navy 6 per cent.
- ▶ Traditionally, women were allowed in select areas such as medical, legal, educational, signals and engineering wings of the Army.
- ▶ In 2010, Delhi High Court ruled that the Indian Army's policy of not allowing women to serve in combat

roles was discriminatory and violative of the Constitution. But in 2013, the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Indian Army to exclude women from certain combat roles.

- In 2016, the Indian Army announced that it would begin inducting women into combat roles in select military units, starting with the Corps of Military Police.
- In 2017, the Supreme Court stated that women should be given equal opportunities in the Army, including in combat roles.
- In 2020, the Indian Army announced that it would open up all positions to women, including those in combat roles. In 2021, the Indian Army starts to induct women in short service commission as fighter pilots.
- The Indian Air Force allows women in combat roles. It has inducted about five women fighter jet pilots. Also, the Ministry of Defence has decided to induct women as sailors in the Indian Navy.

Arguments in favor of Women in Combat role

- **Increasing gender Representation:** It would be a radical move to gender parity in one of the world's most-male dominated professions. This is the trend globally as well.
- **Military Readiness:** Allowing a mixed gender force keeps the military strong. The all-volunteer forces are severely troubled by falling retention and recruitment rates. Widening the applicant pool for all jobs guarantees more willing recruits.
- **Effectiveness:** The blanket restriction for women limits the ability of commanders in theater to pick the most capable person for the job.
- **Tradition:** Training will be required to facilitate the integration of women into combat units. Cultures change over time and the masculine subculture can evolve too. Many previously masculine professions have been successfully opened to women over the past century.
- **Cultural Differences & Demographics:** Allowing women to serve doubles the talent pool for delicate and sensitive jobs that require interpersonal skills not every soldier has. Having a wider personnel base allows militaries to have the best and most diplomatic soldiers working to end conflict quickly.
- **Career advancement:** As combat duty is usually regarded as necessary for promotion to senior officer positions, denying female personnel this experience ensures that very few will ever reach the highest reaches of the military.
- **Technology advancement:** Landscape of modern warfare has changed with more sophisticated weapons, greater focus on intelligence gathering and emergence of cyberspace as arena of combat. Brute force, often a reason for non-inclusion of women, is less necessary today.

Arguments against Women in Combat Role

- **Condition in Army:** The field conditions in the Army are much more rugged and proximity to comrades and adversary poses greater challenges.
- **Physical Ability:** Traditionally women are seen physically not suited for certain jobs. The standards of physical fitness have been set to suit men, and women attempting to reach them will over-stretch themselves.
- **Military readiness:** Certain situations such as pregnancy can affect the deployability of a unit when the unit has a disproportionate number of women or is understaffed.
- **Tradition:** Men, especially those likely to enlist, maintain traditional gender roles. Harassment and resentment of the presence of women in a military subculture can likely become a problem.
- **Abuse by Enemy:** Both male and female prisoners are at risk of torture and rape, which raises question

regarding safety and dignity of women.

In recent years, Government took a decision to induct women for the first time ever in Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) in corps of Military Police in a graded manner to eventually comprise **20 per cent of total Corps**.

All matters concerning the security of the country have to be considered in a dispassionate manner. The whole concept of women's induction in the services, therefore, has to be viewed in a holistic and objective manner and not as a question of conquering the so-called 'last male bastion'. Therefore, there should be a gradual integration of women in the services along with continuous and periodical performance auditing of both male and female soldiers. The army of the future could be all the stronger for being all inclusive.

2.4. Defence Production

Current Status of Defence Production in India

- ▶ India's defence production grew substantially from Rs 74,054 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 108,684 crore in 2022-23. Out of this, 21.96 per cent of the production was done by private companies. This marks the highest share of private sector contribution since 2016-17.
- ▶ India was the biggest arms importer in the 2019-23 period, with a 9.8 percent share in total global arms imports. This was a marginal increase from the 2014-18 period (9.1 percent) when India was the world's second-largest arms importer
- ▶ The defence sector anticipates a visible 13 per cent industry Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) from FY23 to FY30.
 - Additionally, export defence opportunities are projected to witness a commendable 21 per cent CAGR from FY23 to FY30
- ▶ The defence industry is ably supported by a strong base of over 8,000 MSMEs that provide strength and vibrancy to the defence supply chain.
- ▶ From 2000 to 2022, Russia, France, Israel, the United States and United Kingdom are the top 5 countries where India imports its arms from

Defence Targets: The government has set ambitious targets to significantly increase the country's annual defence production and exports by 2028-29.

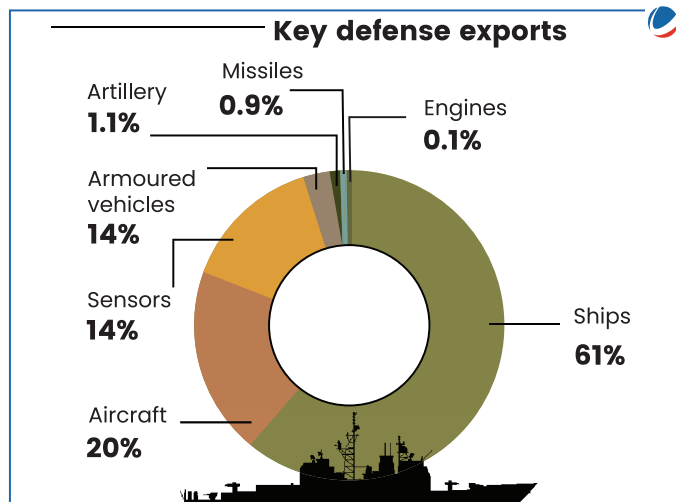
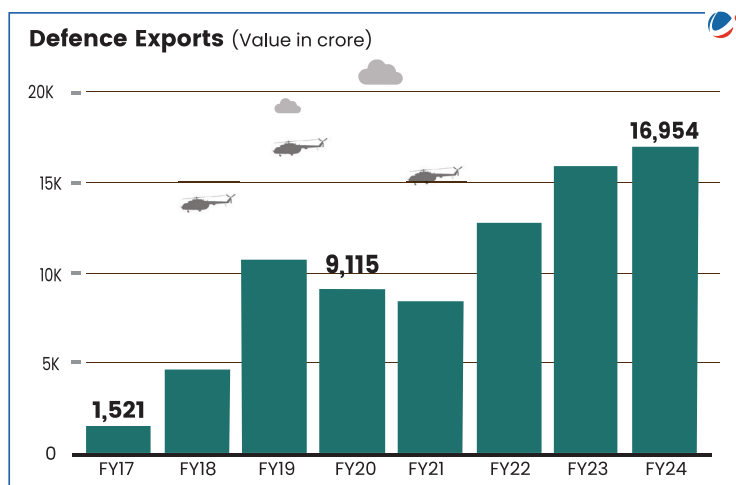
- ▶ The aim is to nearly triple total annual defence production to Rs 3 lakh crore and more than double defence exports to Rs 50,000 crore.
- ▶ For the year 2024-25, the target is Rs 1,75,000 crore worth of total annual defence production, including exports worth ₹35,000 crore.

Defence exports:

- ▶ India's defence export grew from Rs 1,521 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 16,954 crore in 2023-24.
- ▶ India is now exporting arms, ammunition, and related items to over 85 countries, with 100 Indian firms participating in international sales.
 - Notably, most of the exports are driven by the private sector, while the DPSUs, the mainstay in India's defence production, have contributed little. However, most of the private sector's exports are in the form of parts, components, assemblies, and sub-assemblies, with few Indian companies exporting major systems
- ▶ According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, between 2000 and 2023, Myanmar

remained the largest importer of Indian weapons, accounting for 31 per cent of India's exports.

- Sri Lanka followed at 19 per cent. Mauritius, Nepal, Armenia, Vietnam, and Maldives were other major importers.



Challenges in improving Defence Production

- Absence of designing and development capabilities, resulting in associated lack of design rights and patents in defence technology.
- Limited participation of the private sector in defence production, despite the increase in their share in recent years.
- Lack of industry-academia-defence linkage leading to a disconnect between industrial capabilities & academic research and defence needs.
- Defence procurement is a highly specialized activity that requires a prior estimation of the development and production timelines involved, which is extremely difficult.
- India's export market is very limited vis-à-vis the size of its domestic industry.

Initiatives taken to boost defence Production

- **Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO):** The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence. It was accompanied by a compendium of Indian Navy's Indigenisation perspective plans titled 'SWAVLAMBAN'.



RECENT INITIATIVES TAKEN TO PROMOTE SELF-RELIANCE

- **Draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020**
- **Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020**
- **Positive Indigenisation list** for which there would be an embargo on the import.
- **Technology Development Fund (TDF)** to promote self-reliance in Defence Technology.
- **Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs)**
- **Strategic Partnership Model with global firms** to seek **technology transfers**.


- **SRIJAN:** It is a 'one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization. There are over 3000 unique items with a value of over Rs 10,000 Crore that are available through the portal.

- The **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** prescribed 50 per cent indigenous content (IC) in procurement contracts.

- **Draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020:** Recently, Ministry of Defence




proposed Draft Defence Production and Export Policy 2020 with an aim to double India's defence production in five years.

- Government has ensured a **reservation of Rs 1 trillion, or 75 per cent of the defence acquisition budget, for local companies.**
- Additionally, the **defence offset policy** aims to boost the local industry by requiring foreign companies to spend a portion of their orders locally through investments in domestic firms or purchases from them
- Two defence industrial corridors have been established in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.



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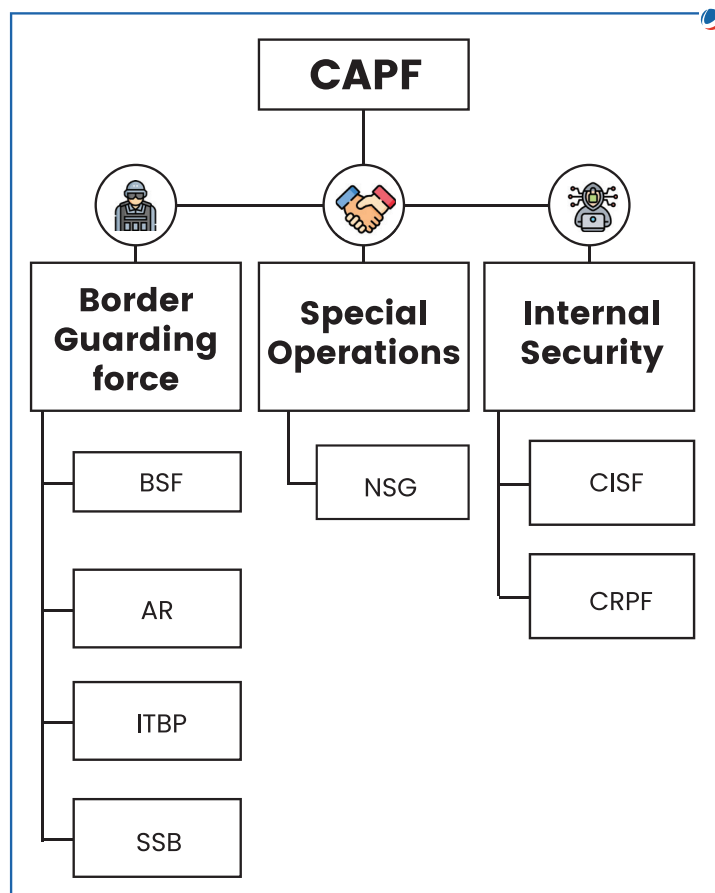
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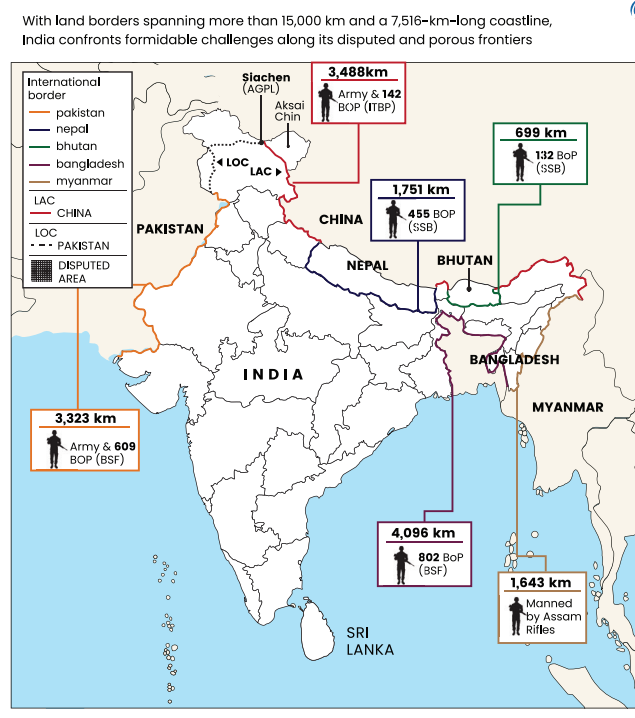
3. Central Armed Police Forces

- There are seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs. (refer to the image)
- Out of these, **Assam Rifles (AR)**, **Border Security Force (BSF)**, **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** and **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** are the 'Border Guarding Forces'
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** is deployed to assist the Civil Administration under the State Governments / UT Administrations in matters relating to maintenance of Public Order, internal security and counter insurgency. The Rapid Action Force (**RAF**) and Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (**CoBRA**) are specialized wings of the CRPF to deal with the riots and Left Wing Extremism / insurgency respectively.
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** provides security and protection to vital installations of national / strategic importance including Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), airports, atomic power plants, space organizations, industrial units, important national museums, Government buildings in Delhi and other important sensitive organizations.
- In addition, **National Security Guard (NSG)** is a specialized strike Force trained in the counter terrorism and anti-hijacking operations. It is also entrusted with the task of securing high risk VIPs and acts as sky marshal for securing domestic and international flights.



3.1. Border Security Force (BSF)

- Border Security Force was raised in 1965 with strength of 25 Battalions and 03 Coys. Over the years, the Force has grown in size and as on date, it has 192 Battalions including 03 NDRF Battalions.
 - The tasks of the BSF are divided as follows
- Peace time:**
 - Promote a sense of security among the people living in the border areas.
 - Prevent trans border crimes, unauthorized entry into or exit from the territory of India.
 - Prevent smuggling and any other illegal activity.



2. War Time:

- a) Holding ground in less threatened sectors so long as the main attack does not develop in a particular sector and it is felt that the local situation is within the capability of BSF to deal with. The BSF units can continue to remain deployed in particular sector even in a war situation to release the Army for offensive tasks. In the even of a major attack developing, which is not within the capacity of the BSF to deal with, the Army can be expected either to reinforce the BSF with Artillery or other support, or relieve the BSF from its role in the particular sector
- b) Protection of vital installations particular air-fields against enemy commandos/para troopers or raids. The role can be entrusted to the BSF Units which are placed under the Army's operational Control.
- c) Providing extension to the flanks of main defence line by the holding of strong points in conjunction with other units.
- d) Limited Aggressive action against para military or irregular forces of the enemy within the overall plan of the Armed Forces.
- e) Performing special tasks connected with intelligence including raids. These are tasks which might be entrusted to BSF Units by the Army in a war situation according to local necessity. It would, however, be expected that the state of training and equipment of the particular BSF Units would be kept in view in assessing their adequacy for the tasks.
- f) Acting as guides in an area of responsibility where routes are known. This is a task which the BSF should be able to perform.
- g) Maintenance of law and order in enemy territory administrated under the control of Army. Normally, ordinary civil police force would be utilised for this task but the BSF could be used to supplement the civil police or to act in lieu thereof in a situation where civil police is not readily available.
- h) Provision of escorts.
- i) Guarding of prisoners of war cages.
- j) Assistance in control of refugees. It is the intention to utilise civil police force and armed Home Guards etc. for these tasks but again depending upon local exigencies, the BSF might be entrusted with these tasks.
- k) Anti - infiltration duties in specified area. This is an important responsibility which will have to be performed by security forces. The exact responsibility of the BSF in this matter is still under consideration and separate instructions are expected to be issued.

Various Achievements of BSF

- ▶ Its operational responsibility is spread over 6,386.36 km of International Border with Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is also deployed on the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K under the operational control of the Army.
- ▶ In its fight against Militancy/Left Wing Extremism, the BSF apprehended and got militants/Maoists surrendered apart from effecting seizure of arms and ammunition.
- ▶ The Border Security Force has one Formed Police Unit deployed with United Nations Stabilizations Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO)
- ▶ The BSF troops are performing their duties in exemplary manner to ensure the UN mandate in all spheres of their duties.

3.2. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- Raised in the year 1969, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is providing security cover to 345 units including 61 domestic and international airports and fire protection cover to 102 Industrial Undertakings. In a span of four decades, the Force has grown manifold.
- With globalization and liberalization of the economy, CISF is no longer a PSU centric organization. Instead, it has become a premier multi-skilled security agency of the country with the mandate:
 - a) To provide security to the strategic establishment, including the Department of Space, the Department of Atomic Energy, the Airports, the Delhi Metro, the ports, the historical monuments and the basic areas of Indian economy such as petroleum and natural gas, electricity, coal, steel and mining.
 - b) CISF is providing protection to some private sector units and important government buildings in Delhi.
 - c) Presently, CISF is also providing security to the protected persons classified as Z Plus, Z, X, Y.
 - d) The specialized task of airport security was assigned to CISF in the year 2000 in the wake of hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC-814 to Kandahar.
- CISF is currently providing security cover to Atomic Power Plants, Space Installations, Defence Production Units, Mines, Oil Fields and Refineries, Major Sea Ports, Heavy Engineering, Steel Plants, Fertilizer Units, Airports, Hydro Electric/Thermal Power Plants, sensitive Government Buildings and Heritage Monuments (including the Taj Mahal and Red Fort) and important Private Sector Units. CISF has also been mandated to provide protection to the VIP protectees of various categories across the country.

Various achievements of CISF

- CISF is one of the largest Fire Protection Service providers in the country. It provides fire protection and fire safety coverage to 102 Public Sector Undertakings with the sanctioned strength of 7716 personnel (in 2018-19).
- During the year 2018-19, CISF recovered Lost and Found property worth ₹70.03 crore at the airports, of which property worth ₹15.39 crore was handed over to the passengers while property worth ₹55.64 crore was handed over to the Airport Operators.
- CISF has caught several crores of goods in the last 5 years in smuggling cases at various airports.
- The CISF was inducted in Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is providing security to 239 Metro Stations across the country.

3.3. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- Initially raised as the 'Crown Representative Police' in 1939 at Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh, the Force was rechristened as Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) after Independence. Since then, the Force has grown in its strength and capabilities.
- The mission of the Central Reserve Police Force shall be to enable the government to maintain Rule of Law, Public Order and Internal Security effectively and efficiently, to Preserve National Integrity and Promote Social Harmony and Development by upholding supremacy of the Constitution.
- Broad duties being performed by the CRPF are:
 - a) Crowd control
 - b) Riot control
 - c) Counter Militancy / Insurgency operations.

- d) Dealing with Left Wing Extremism
- e) Overall co-ordination of large scale security arrangement specially with regard to elections in disturbed areas.
- f) Fighting enemy in the event of War.
- g) Participating in UN Peace Keeping Mission as per Govt. policy.
- h) Rescue and Relief operations at the time of Natural Calamities and disasters.

Various achievements of CRPF

- CRPF is the only Para Military Force in the Country which has 06 Mahila (Ladies) Battalions.
- A unique New Financial Management System (NFMS) has been developed with latest technology to cater to provisioning / procurement needs. It is being extensively used in CRPF.
- Bhavishya is being extensively used by all Drawing & Disbursing Officers (DDOs), personnel proceeding on retirement and PAO. The tracking of payment of pensionary benefits has become very effective with the use of Bhavishya. This is a useful mechanism wherein status of all pension cases can be monitored centrally.

Rapid Action Force in the CRPF

- In 1991, 10 Battalions of CRPF were reorganized and converted into 10 Battalions of 04 Companies each of Rapid Action Force (RAF). The personnel in RAF are trained and equipped to be an effective strike Force in communal riots and similar situations.
- These Battalions are located at 10 communally sensitive locations across the country to facilitate quick response in case of any such incident. All these Battalions are organized on an unattached pattern and are working under the supervision of an Inspector General.

Commando Battalions for Resolute Action (CoBRA) In CRPF

- CoBRA is a specialized force which has been raised to fight Maoists and insurgents in Left Wing Extremism affected areas. Also known as Jungle Warriors, they are selected amongst the CRPF's personnel based on age and other physical attributes.
- 10 CoBRA Battalions were raised between 2008-11, they have been trained, equipped and deployed in LWE affected States of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh as well as Assam & Meghalaya. It is one of the elite Commando units in the country trained to survive, fight and win in the jungles. A CoBRA School for specialized training in Jungle Warfare & Tactics has also been in operation and providing exclusive training to the force personnel.

3.4. Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP)

- ITBP was raised in the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962 with a modest strength of 04 Battalions. Originally conceptualized as an integrated **"guerrilla-cum-intelligence-cum- fighting Force"** self contained in supplies, communication and intelligence collection. It has evolved with passage of time into a conventional border guarding Force.
- Today, ITBP guards 3,488 kms of Indo-China Border and is manning 178 Border Out Posts (**BOPs**) with altitudes ranging from 9,000 feet to 18,750 feet in the Western, Middle and Eastern Sector of the Indo-China Border from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh. 8 ITBP Battalions are deployed in Maoist affected areas of Chhattisgarh.
- The mandate of the ITBP includes :
 - a) Vigil on the northern borders, detection and prevention of border violations, and promotion of the

sense of security among the local populace.

- b) Check illegal immigration , trans-border smuggling and crimes.
- c) Security to sensitive installations, banks and protected persons.
- d) Restore and preserve order in any area in the event of disturbance.

Multifarious facets of the Force

- ITBP Battalions are also providing security to various installations of national importance throughout the country, which includes Rashtrapati Bhawan, Vice President House, Rumtek Monastery (Sikkim), Tihar Jail (N Delhi), LBSNAA (UKD) and various sensitive installations in Chandigarh (Punjab) & Jammu (J&K).
- In view of increased Maoist activities in various parts of the Country, ITBP was inducted in District Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh) in December 2009 to thwart naxal menace. At present, 8 Bns are deployed in Rajnandgaon, Narayanpur & Kondagaon Districts of Chhattisgarh.
- At present, a well equipped and highly trained team of elite commandos are deployed in Afghanistan for providing security to the Indian Embassy in Kabul and 4 Consulates General.
- A National Centre for UNCIVPOL training has been setup at ITBP Camp, Tigri and New Delhi for providing systematic training to Indian Police Officers for deployment in UN Mission.

Various achievements of ITBP

- ITBP has also excelled in UN peacekeeping operations. The Force personnel were deployed for peacekeeping operations in Angola, Namibia, Cambodia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Mozambique and Kosovo.
- ITBP is also providing security, communication and medical cover to the pilgrims during the Annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra since 1981.
- Being the first responder for natural Disaster in Himalayas, ITBP was the first to establish 7 Regional Response Centres and carried out numerous rescue and relief operations in all disaster situations, which took place in our areas of responsibility as well as other parts of the country.
- It established a 10,000 bed quarantine center to tackle COVID-19 in Chhatarpur, New Delhi, the largest quarantine center in the world.

- ITBP provides communication, security and medical cover to the yatries from Gunji to Lipulekh Pass and back to Gunji in co-ordination with MEA and Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam. Since 2015, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is also being conducted from Nathula route and ITBP is providing similar assistance for pilgrims in this route also.
- In a historic rescue and relief operation in 2013, the ITBP saved 33,009 pilgrims from grave situation from char dham yatra routes in Uttarakhand in the 15 day rescue effort by the Force. 15 Himveers laid down their lives on 25th June, 2013 in a Helicopter crash during this rescue operation.
- ITBP conducts a large number of medical civic action programmes in remote border and terrorist/naxal affected areas to provide free and expert medical, health and hygiene care to the civilian population in remote villages.
- ITBP is at the forefront of movement for the preservation of Himalayan environment & ecology. ITBP has taken up in a big way the task of greening the Himalayan regions especially in Inner Himalayas. Being the only human presence on forward areas, it has taken on itself the task of maintaining the delicate balance of flora and fauna.

3.5. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- The Special Service Bureau which was precursor to the present Sashastra Seema Bal was set up in early 1963 in the wake of India-China conflict of 1962 to build up the morale and capability of the border population against threats of subversion, infiltration and sabotage from across the border.
- It became a border guarding Force in 2001 under the Ministry of Home Affairs and was rechristened as "Sashastra Seema Bal" with an amended charter of duties. It has been given the border guarding responsibilities along the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders.
- SSB is now spread along the International border across Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. SSB's present charter of duties is to:
 - a) Safeguard the security of assigned borders of India and promote sense of security among the people living in border areas.
 - b) Prevent trans-border crimes, smuggling and any other illegal activities.
 - c) Prevent unauthorized entry into or exit from the territory of India.
 - d) Carry out civic action programme in the area of responsibility.
 - e) Perform any other duty assigned by the Central Government.
- SSB is also engaged in Counter-Insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and Anti-naxal operations in Jharkhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. It is also performing internal security duties i.e. Election duties and law and order duties in different parts of India.

3.6. National Security Guard (NSG)

- The National Security Guard was raised in 1984 to combat terrorism. This Strike Force is a unique amalgam of selected personnel from the Army, the Central Armed Police Forces and State Police Forces.
- After the 26.11.2008 terror attack in Mumbai, four regional Hubs (Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata) were established to reduce the response matrix and to ensure Pan-India footprint. In 2016, the fifth Hub came into existence in Gandhinagar (Gujarat).
- As a Federal Contingency Force, NSG, with its ethos of excellence, has to its credit several successful counter-terrorist operations. Over the years, the NSG has acquired an enviable reputation of 'Best Amongst Best' by virtue of its high standards of training and operational efficiency. For its dedication, valor and surgical operational capabilities, Commandos of this Special Force have earned the moniker 'Black Cats'.
- The specific objectives of the NSG commandos are:
 - a) Neutralisation of specific terrorist threats.
 - b) Handling hijacking situations in the air and on the land.

Controversies

- Delayed response to the crisis has been the major criticism leveled against the force. For example, NSG took 10 hours to respond to the 26/11 crisis.
- During its Operation Ashwamedh deployment, the NSG was stuck in traffic for two hours during its drive to Palam Airport to board an airline to get to Gujarat.

Suggestions

- Need for an internal and effective transportation infrastructure for the NSG.
- Deployment of the force in cities deemed most vulnerable. There is a need for faster modernisation and expansion of the NSG.

- c) Engaging and neutralising terrorists in specific situations.
- d) Bomb disposal (search, detection and neutralisation of IEDs).
- e) Post Blast Investigation (PBI).
- f) Rescue of hostages in kidnap situation.
- The National Security Guard Commandos are trained for high-risk tasks like counter-terrorism, counter-hijack and bomb disposal operations. They are also assigned the task of providing 'close protection' to designated protectees.
- **Immediate Back Up Security Operations (IBUS)** – NSG Task Forces (TFs) are deployed for IBUS operations as part of security arrangements during the events of national importance, including Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations, to thwart any terror strike. During the year, 49 events have been covered by the NSG.
- **Operation BLACK QUARRY & Render Safe Procedure (RSP)** – Under Operation Black Quarry, NSG Bomb Disposal Teams carried out the Anti Sabotage Checks at important venues, attended by VVIPs and places of importance where national & international summits are conducted. RSP was also carried out at the locations during the events of national importance which are visited by VVIPs including the President, Prime Minister and visiting foreign delegates.

3.7. Assam Rifles

- Fondly known as "Friends of the North East People", the Assam Rifles was raised as "Cachar Levy" in 1835 and is the oldest Para Military Force in the country. It has its Headquarters at Shillong and the Force is completely deployed in the North East in Counter Insurgency role and for guarding the Indo-Myanmar Border, spread over 1,643 kms.
- Apart from excelling in operations, the AR is also 'Acting East' in pursuance of Govt. goals by conducting well planned and focused programmes for the upliftment of the people of the NE through numerous Civic Action Plans. These projects are speedily executed so that maximum benefits are reaped by the local populace, especially those located in the remote and inaccessible area.
- The important programmes / activities includes construction of Community Halls, Provision of Water Supply Schemes, establishment of Vocational Training Centres, upliftment of Rural Schools, National Integration Tours for students, Free Medical Camps, Awareness Programmes, Sports Activities for the youth etc.
- AR has earned an excellent name for the country by their correct and prompt response to all emergencies, outstanding working relation with all UN staff and local police/ Govt. officials and their respectful and the gentlemanly behavior with the local populace.

3.8. Issues faced by the Central Armed Police Forces

The Standing Committee on Home Affairs (Chairperson: Mr. P. Chidambaram) had submitted its report on Working Conditions in Central Armed Police Forces. It identified the following issues:

- **Bureaucratisation of Armed Police Forces:** Majority of the higher posts of the top hierarchy are filled by deputations (IPS officers), who most of the times failed to take adequate steps for the welfare of the cadre officers.
- **Higher Vacancies and lack of promotional prospects:** There is an acute stagnation in the all cadre of CAPFs, which in turn is affecting the morale and efficiency of forces and reflect lack of foresight, planning, and proactive estimation of future vacancies.

- **Absence of a robust in-house grievance redressal mechanism**, which prompted a Soldier from BSF in 2017 to use Social Media to raise his concerns.
- **Ineffective Coordination Between State Police and The CAPF Leadership**: States are over-dependent on the CRPF for maintaining various law and order situations. The continuous deployment of training companies affects the operational efficiency of the CRPF, as well as denies them training and rest.
- **Poor Infrastructure**: Lack of electricity at several installations of Border Out Posts (BOPs), seriously affects the working conditions of the personnel as well as operations of the CAPFs.
 - An inquiry on a 2010 incident in Dantewada, found that the force's camp lacked basic facilities, had minimal security and deplorable living conditions.
 - These affect the overall moral of the forces leaving them psychologically vulnerable. Often incidences of suicides and shooting down of the colleagues come in the light.
- **Road connectivity and mobility**: There is a delay in execution of road projects which affect mobility of personnel. This happens due to delay in obtaining forest/wildlife clearances, hard rock stretches, limited working season, difficulties in availability of construction materials, etc.
- **Shortages of Arms and Ammunition**: There are inordinate delays in procurement of combat-ready equipment and inadequate medical facilities, especially when personnel are deployed in hostile environment.

Recommendations

- **Ending IPS hegemony**: The nature of duty of CAPF is more similar to that of the Armed Forces and it would make more sense to bring more officers from the Armed Forces on deputation. However, MHA has contested the same by justifying that the presence of IPS officers in every CAPF increases inter-departmental coordination between various CAPFs and State and therefore IPS officers are best suited to lead and provide supervisory directions to any CAPFs in an effective, efficient and impartial manner.
- **Modernization of the Force** must be given utmost priority as this Force not only has to face any enemy from across the border but also vagaries of nature.
- Issue specific Counter Plan rather than One-Size Fits All Approach:
 - For J&K: MHA should adopt a multi-pronged strategy that prevents youth from joining militancy, curbs their financing, and simultaneously launch counter-insurgency operations.
 - For Left Wing Area: MHA should make efforts to procure mine-resistant vehicles. This could be done through import or domestic manufacturing under the 'Make in India' programme.
- Expedite **Cadre Review** of these forces as it's essential to maintain their organizational structure and ensures completion of project in a time-bound manner.
- **Setting up Dedicated Research and Development (R&D) Wing**: It recommended that due to the unique issues faced by the CRPF, such as large size and areas of deployment, creation of a dedicated R&D unit of its own should be explored, to deal with issues peculiar to the CRPF such as Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and bullet proofing of vehicles.

4. Other Security Forces

4.1. Special Protection Group (SPG)

- ▶ The Special Protection Group (SPG) was raised in 1985 with the intention to provide proximate security cover to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members. SPG officers are ingrained in high leadership qualities, professionalism, knowledge of proximate security and inculcate the culture of leading from the front.
- ▶ In March 1985, the **Birbal Nath Committee** submitted its recommendations of raising a Special Protection Unit (SPU). On 30 March 1985, the President of India created posts for the unit under the Cabinet Secretariat. The SPU was then re-christened Special Protection Group and the post of Inspector General of Police was re-designated as Director.
- ▶ The "general superintendence, direction and control" of the SPG is exercised by the Central Government. The head of the force, called a Director, designated as Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for "the command and supervision" of the force. The director of the SPG since its inception has been an officer from the Indian Police Service. Personnel of the Special Protection Group are drawn from Central Armed Police Forces and Railway Protection Force, but the officers are from the IPS or CRPF.

Special Protection Group Amendment Act, 2019

- ▶ The 2019 Act amends the Special Protections Group Act, 1988. The previous Act provides for the constitution and regulation of the Special Protection Group (SPG) to provide security to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers, and their immediate family members.
- ▶ Under the 1988 Act, the SPG provides security to the Prime Minister and his immediate family members. It also provides security to former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members for a period of one year from the date on which they cease to hold the office. Beyond this period, the SPG security is provided based on the level of threat as decided by the central government. The threat must: (i) emanate from a military or terrorist organisation, and (ii) be of a grave and continuing nature.
- ▶ The 2019 Act amends this provision to state that the SPG will provide security to the Prime Minister, and members of his immediate family residing with him at his official residence. It will also provide security to any former Prime Ministers, and his immediate family members residing with him at the residence allotted to him. This security will be provided for a period of five years from the date on which he ceases to hold the office of Prime Minister.
- ▶ The 1988 Act provides that if the SPG security is withdrawn from a former Prime Minister, it will also be withdrawn from his immediate family members, unless the level of threat faced by the immediate family member warrants such security. The 2019 Act removes this condition to state that if the SPG security is withdrawn from a former Prime Minister, it will also be withdrawn from his immediate family members.

4.2. Indian Coast Guard

- ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) came into existence on February 1, 1977 with two frigates and five patrol boats transferred from the Indian Navy and was formally instituted on August 19, 1978. Since its inception, the service has acquired a wide range of capabilities, both surface and airborne, to undertake the assigned tasks during peace time and to supplement the efforts of the Indian Navy.
- ▶ The duties and functions of Indian Coast Guard are as follows:

- a) Ensuring the safety and protection of the artificial islands, offshore terminals, installation and other structures and devices in any maritime zone.
- b) Provide protection to the fishermen including assistance to them at sea while in distress.
- c) Taking such measures as are necessary to preserve and protect the Marine Environment and to prevent and control marine pollution.
- d) Assisting the Customs and other authorities in Anti-Smuggling Operations.
- e) Enforcing the provision of such enactments as are for the time being in force in the maritime zones; and
- f) Such other matter, including measures for the safety of life and property at sea and collection of scientific data, as may be prescribed.

Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC)

- It is also known as the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. It was established under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- Under the code, the signatories agreed to co-operate to the fullest possible extent in the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships.

Jeddah Amendment: An amendment to DCOC was made in 2017 to cover other illicit maritime activities, including human trafficking and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to build national and regional capacity to address wider maritime security issues, as a basis for sustainable development of the maritime sector.



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5. Security Agencies in India

5.1. Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)

- India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), has long faced allegations of meddling in its neighbors' affairs. Founded in 1968, primarily to counter China's influence, over time it has shifted its focus to India's other traditional rival, Pakistan.
- Over the last forty years the organization has expanded its mandate and is credited with greatly increasing India's influence abroad. RAW had two priorities after its formation: the organization worked to strengthen its capability for intelligence gathering on Pakistan and China and for covert action in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).
- Some experts say that RAW's efforts in East Pakistan, which was created from the partition of the Indian state of Bengal and completely separated from the rest of Pakistan, was aimed at fomenting independence sentiment. Over time, RAW's objectives have broadened to include:
 - Monitoring the political and military developments in adjoining countries, which have direct bearing on India's national security and in the formulation of its foreign policy.
 - Seeking the control and limitation of the supply of military hardware to Pakistan, mostly from European countries, the United States, and China.
- Experts say RAW's powers and its role in India's foreign policy have varied under different prime ministers. RAW claims that it contributed to several foreign policy successes:
 - a) The creation of Bangladesh in 1971;
 - b) India's growing influence in Afghanistan;
 - c) The northeast state of Sikkim's accession to India in 1975;
 - d) The security of India's nuclear program;
 - e) The success of African liberation movements during the Cold War.

Controversies with RAW

- Lack of transparency and accountability to the Indian citizens in its functioning. It is not covered under the RTI.
- Suspicion of corruption among the senior officials due to lack of transparency.
- Support to Baloch Separatists has been criticized by external states.

Suggested Reforms

- The most common suggested reform pertaining to RAW is the call for the institution of an Oversight committee to maintain awareness of RAW's capabilities, limitations, and financial expenditures.
- Proponents of establishing intelligence oversight claim that these agencies need to have accountability to maintain effectiveness and to avoid the temptations of corrupt practices.

5.2. Intelligence Bureau (IB)

- The Intelligence Bureau (IB), considered the oldest surviving intelligence organization in the world, serves as India's internal security agency responsible for mitigating domestic threats. IB technically falls under the authority of Ministry of Home Affairs. However, the IB director is part of the Strategic Policy Group as well as the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) of the National Security Council, and can report directly to the prime minister.

► The Intelligence Bureau, as the internal security and intelligence organization, is tasked with intelligence collection and dissemination and acts as a security advisor to the state and federal governments as well. Personnel are not recruited into IB directly; rather they come from law enforcement agencies throughout India, with Indian Police Service cadres making up the bulk of the organization. Below is a list of tasks that the IB is known to be involved in:

a) **Counterterrorism:** IB collects intelligence inside India, which includes keeping track of individuals, groups, and organizations suspected of terrorist ties, monitoring movements and communications of known individuals, cultivating sources, and analyzing and disseminating collected information. IB's counter terrorism mandate also involves countering separatist and violent political movements in the northeast and elsewhere.

b) The **state Subsidiary Intelligence Bureaus** play an important role in IB's efforts, especially in the northeast. IB also heads a Multi-Agency Center to coordinate and share intelligence with different agencies and branches of government.

c) **Counterintelligence:** IB is responsible for effectively countering foreign and hostile intelligence organizations operating in India. Almost all of the counterintelligence work inside India is conducted by IB. While not much is known about IB's work, a report indicates that the Indian intelligence community has incorporated remote viewing techniques and satellite technologies in its counter-intelligence efforts.

d) **Border Intelligence Collection:** India shares porous land borders with Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, and China. Following the 1951 Himmatsinhji Committee's recommendation, IB tasked with intelligence collection in the border areas. In this area IB works closely with border protection forces.

e) **VIP Security:** IB's VIP security unit is charged with the safety of VIPs. While it is not known whether IB provides actual physical bodyguards, it does provide a threat framework and security guidelines ("blue book") to be used for the actual protection of VIPs. It is assumed that IB shares known threats and intelligence with and advises the Special Protection Group, Delhi police, and other state police organizations.

Controversies

- The ability of the bureau to wiretap phones and listen in on almost all forms of communication without the need for a warrant is a cause of concern for many.
- Allegations of political surveillance due to lack of clear oversight mechanisms.
- Turf wars between RAW and IB results in intelligence sharing getting caught up in bureaucratic red tape.

Suggestions

- The Task Force on National Security, lead by former cabinet secretary Naresh Chandra, has recommended the appointment of a National Intelligence Coordinator (intelligence czar) to oversee all the various intelligence agencies and facilitate effective coordination.
- Restricting IB to national security tasks and refrain from political surveillance.
- Delineate the geographical reach of IB and RAW to collect intelligence.

5.3. Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

► The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on the Directive Principles, contained in **Article 47** of the Indian Constitution, which direct the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health. The government's policy on the subject which flows from this constitutional provision is also guided by the international conventions on the subject.

- India is a signatory to the single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Conventions on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988. The broad legislative policy is contained in the three Central Acts, viz. Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, and The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.
- The **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985** which came into effect from the 14th November, 1985 made an express provision for constituting a Central Authority for the purpose of exercising the powers and functions of the Central Government under the Act.
- The Bureau, subject to the supervision and control of the Central Government, is to exercise the powers and functions of the Central Government for taking measures with respect to:
 - a) Co-ordination of actions by various offices, State Governments and other authorities under the N.D.P.S. Act, Customs Act, Drugs and Cosmetics Act and any other law for the time being in force in connection with the enforcement provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985.
 - b) Implementation of the obligation in respect of counter measures against illicit traffic under the various international conventions and protocols that are in force at present or which may be ratified or acceded to by India in future.
 - c) Assistance to concerned authorities in foreign countries and concerned international organisations to facilitate coordination and universal action for prevention and suppression of illicit traffic in these drugs and substances.
 - d) Coordination of actions taken by the other concerned Ministries, Departments and Organizations in respect of matters relating to drug abuse.
- The Narcotics Control Bureau is the apex **coordinating** agency. It also functions as an **enforcement** agency through its zones and sub-zones. The zones and sub-zones collect and analyse data related to seizures of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance, study trends, modus operandi, collect and disseminate intelligence and work in close cooperation with the Customs, State Police and other law enforcement agencies

Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

- It is the primary legislation for dealing with drugs and their trafficking.
- It has various provisions to punish manufacturing, sale, possession, consumption, use, transport of banned drugs.
- It provides for the penalty of property derived from or used in illegal traffic in narcotic drugs.
- The central government can add or omit from the list of psychotropic substances. For instance, in 2015, the central government classified mephedrone – also called as meth or meow meow – as a psychotropic substance in the Act after its popularity grew among the youth and experts warned of its grave health consequences.

Recently, NCB arrested the country's first Darknet narcotics operative under the Act the global 'Operation Trance' (A joint intelligence-gathering action on international postal, express mail and courier shipments containing psychotropic drugs that are abused as sedatives and painkillers.

5.4. National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)

- The National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) is a technical intelligence Agency under the National Security Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office, India. It also includes National Institute of Cryptology Research and Development (NICRD), which is first of its kind in Asia.
- The NTRO was created after the 1999 Kargil conflict as a dedicated technical intelligence agency. It was finally constituted in 2004.
- The National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) was set up to be the premier technical intelligence (TECHINT) agency of the country with the mandate to collect communications intelligence (COMINT), electronic intelligence (ELINT), IMINT and cyber intelligence. The NTRO's mandate created quite a storm, since it was given tasks already being done by other intelligence services, resulting in inter-agency turf battles that led to problems in its functioning for nearly a decade.
- The Home Ministry issued a notification listing National Technical Research Organization (NTRO) under the **Intelligence Organizations (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1985**. NTRO now has the same "norms of conduct" as the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW). In 2012, the Home Ministry had declined to give phone surveillance powers to NTRO arguing that it was not notified under the Act. Now NTRO may be allowed to intercept.

Intelligence Organizations (Restriction of Rights) Act 1985

- The aim of this act is to prevent leakage of information by intelligence agencies.
- It prevents employees of a notified agency
 - From forming unions/associations.
 - Puts restrictions on the employee's freedom of speech.
 - Bars any communication with the press, or
 - publishing a book or other document without the permission of the head of the intelligence organization.

5.5. National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

- The National Intelligence Grid or NATGRID is the integrated intelligence master database structure for counter-terrorism purpose connecting databases of various core security agencies under Government of India collecting comprehensive patterns procured from 21 different organizations that can be readily accessed by security agencies round the clock.
- It is reported to be operational since 31 December 2020, under Home Ministry.
- The 26/11 attacks on Mumbai led to the exposure of several weaknesses in India's intelligence gathering and action networks. NATGRID is part of the radical overhaul of the security and intelligence apparatuses of India. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) are two organisations established in the aftermath of the Mumbai attacks of 2008.

Controversies

- Issues of nepotism, inefficiency and corruption affect the internal working of the organisation.
- There have also been allegations of financial irregularities in the procurement of military hardware.
- In 2011, a whistle-blower reported that NTRO has tapped 7,50,000 phones illegally.

Suggestion

- Need for an oversight mechanism to ensure accountability of senior officials.
- Better coordination between various intelligence agencies to avoid duplication and conflict of efforts.

- ▶ Unlike the NCTC or the NIA which are central agencies, the NATGRID is essentially a tool that enables security agencies to locate and obtain relevant information on terror suspects from pooled data sets of various organizations and services in the country. It will help identify, capture and prosecute terrorists and help preempt terror plots.
- ▶ The NATGRID will have data related to all immigration entry and exit, banking and financial transactions, credit card purchases, telecom, individual taxpayers, air flyers, train travellers besides others to generate intelligence inputs.
- ▶ 11 users' agencies and 21 service providers will be connected with the NATGRID while in the later stages 950 organisations and in subsequent years another 1,000 organisations will be connected with it.
- ▶ The 11 agencies which will be able to access the NATGRID data on real-time basis are: Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW), National investigation Agency (NIA), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), Directorate General of Central Excise and Intelligence (DGCEI) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

Concerns

- ▶ Without a data security architecture in place, there remains a possibility of data leak and associated privacy issues.
- ▶ Infringes on the federal structure as police is a state subject.
- ▶ Efficacy in preventing terror have been questioned, given that no state agency or police force has access to its database.

Suggestions

- ▶ Need to provide a statutory backing to the structure with safeguards for data protection.

5.6. National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- ▶ The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is India's counter-terrorist task force. The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008. The agency aims:

- a) To be a thoroughly professional investigative agency matching the best international standards.
- b) To set the standards of excellence in counter terrorism and other national security related investigations at the national level by developing into a highly trained, partnership oriented workforce.
- c) To creating deterrence for existing and potential terrorist groups/individuals.
- d) To develop as a storehouse of all terrorist related information.

Issues in functioning

- ▶ Poor coordination mechanism with other specialised agencies.
- ▶ Lack of financial autonomy.
- ▶ Criticized by state governments as a threat to the federal structure.
- ▶ Lack of dedicated cadre of officers serving in the organisation.

Suggestions

- ▶ Creation of a separate cadre of officers for the NIA.
- ▶ Granting financial autonomy to the organisation.

- ▶ The cases are assigned to the NIA by the Central Government in accordance with section VI of the

NIA Act, 2008. The investigation of the cases is done by the Agency independently. After investigation, the cases are placed before the NIA Special Court. It is empowered to deal with terror-related crimes across states **without special permission from the states.**

► Recent amendments to the NIA Act include:

- a) It will be applicable to persons who commit a scheduled offence beyond India against Indian citizens or affecting the interest of India.
- b) The Central government may designate the Sessions Courts as Special Courts for conducting the offences under the NIA Act.
- c) Offences already under NIA jurisdiction
 - » Atomic Energy Act, 1962,
 - » Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967

2019 Amendment to NIA Act added scheduled offences related to

- » Human trafficking (Sections 370, 370A of IPC)
- » Offences related to counterfeit currency (Sections 489A to 489E of IPC)
- » Manufacture or sale of prohibited arms (Section 25(1AA) of Arms Act, 1959)
- » Cyber crimes (Section 66F IT Act 2000)
- » Explosives Substances Act 1908

5.7. Multi-Agency Centre (MAC)

- The Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) was formed following the Kargil intrusion and the subsequent overhaul of the Indian national security apparatus suggested by the Kargil Review Committee report and GoM report.
- Accordingly, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) was authorized to create a Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) in New Delhi. Now functioning 24/7 as the nodal body for sharing intelligence inputs, MAC coordinates with representatives from numerous agencies, different ministries, both central and state.



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6. Police Reforms

- Police organization is based on the Police Act of 1861. Police is subject matter under the Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India in State list. However, Constitution provide executive and legislative division of power between centre and state.

- It was established under authoritarian regime. Thus, the growing complexity, modernisation & democratization in Indian Society as well as changing nature of crime calls for Structural, Functions and Personnel reforms in police organisation. Also, lack of law and order also fails to attract investment which is essential to promote economic growth.

Issues associated with Police Reforms

- **Modernisation of Police forces:** The fund allocation under the modernisation scheme has been very low in the last few years.
- **Overburdened Police Force:** The crime per lakh population had increased by 28% over the last decade (2005–2015). Whereas the actual strength of police force in various states is 137 police per lakh people, which is against the sanctioned strength and United Nation recommend strength of 181 police per lakh and 222 police per lakh people respectively.
- **Quality of Investigation:** The poor quality of investigation of crime lead to only 47 % conviction rate for crimes (The Law Commission 2012). The police lack training and expertise required to conduct professional investigations. They also have insufficient legal knowledge and inadequate forensic and cyber infrastructure.
- **Police Accountability:** Control over police by political executive has to lead to abuse of police personnel, its criminalisation and interference with their decision-making authority.
- **Lack of Infrastructure:** There were considerable delays in procuring new infrastructure like vehicles. Basic facilities like Forensic labs and Fingerprint bureaus are still in shortage. The training academies in most of the states have very poor infrastructure and Police training to use modernized equipments and processes was low.
- **Police–Public Relation:** The perception of police among the people is of trouble creator rather than trouble shooter. On the other hand police personnel relied upon community for being the witness and

Modernisation of Police Forces scheme

- The MPF scheme was initiated in 1969–70, the fund allocation has been double in recent Cabinet Declaration.
- Fund will be utilised for internal security, law and order, women security, availability of modern weapons, mobility of police forces, logistics support, hiring of helicopters, upgradation of police wireless, National Satellite Network, CCTNS project, Eprison project etc.
- Police Stations will be integrated to set up a national data base of crime and criminals' records. It will be linked with other pillars of criminal justice system such as 'prisons, forensic science laboratories and prosecution offices.
- Following the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the MPF scheme would be delinked from central funding from 2015–16 onwards. States were expected to finance the scheme using their own resources.
- It also provides for setting up of a State-of Art forensic science laboratory in Amravati, Andhra Pradesh and upgradation of Sardar Patel Global Centre for Security, Counter Terrorism and Anti Insurgency in Jaipur and Gujarat Forensic Science University in Gandhi Nagar.

Intended Benefits

- Aimed to achieve SMART Policing i.e. Strict & Sensitive, Modern & Mobile, Alert & Accountable, Reliable & responsive, Tech savvy & Trained.
- It will be catalyst for security challenges of Left Wing Extremism, Jammu and Kashmir and various fraction groups of North East.
- Upgradation of police infrastructure, forensic science

informers in crime investigation.

➤ Other issues

- i. Recently, NHRC noted that 206 cases of encounters occurred in the last 12 year.
- ii. Lack of proper training of the frontline officers regarding soft skills such as inter-personal communication skills etc.
- iii. Perception of force as being partisan, politicised, and generally not very competent. Nothing confirms this more than the frequent demand for probes by the CBI into crimes which can be handled by Criminal Investigation Departments.

- laboratories, institutions and the equipment available with them to plug critical gaps in the criminal justice system.
- Equipping police with latest equipment will reduce dependence on paramilitary troops.

Supreme Court's observations in Prakash Singh Case (2006)

- Establishment of three institutions for police organisation
 - i. **State Security Commission** to prevent unwarranted influence or pressure on the police by state government.
 - ii. **Police Establishment Board** to decide transfers, postings, promotions and other service related matters of police officers.
 - iii. **Police Complaints Authority** to inquire into public complaints against police officers regarding serious misconduct.
- **Director General of Police (DGP)** should be selected from three senior-most officers of the state empanelled by the Union Public Service Commission and must have a minimum two-year tenure.
- Officers in key positions in the field (Inspector General in charge of Range, Station House Officer) must be given a two-year tenure.
- In order to improve the quality of investigation, the investigating police must be separated from law and order police.

Status of implementation of SC directions

As per Justice Thomas committee, set up by court to monitor the implementation of court's directions:

- State Security Commissions had been set up in all states except Jammu and Kashmir and Odisha but in some states, it was dominated by government and police officers.
- The composition and powers of the State Security Commissions and the Police Establishment Boards were at variance with the Supreme Court directions.
- Many of these Commissions did not have the power to issue binding recommendations.
- Duration of Directors and Inspectors-Generals (IGs) were not fixed and thus, they were being removed midway on the most untenable and imaginary grounds. e.g T.P. Senkumar case in Kerala.
- The Supreme Court itself has expressed its inability to ensure implementation in the face of noncompliance by so many states

Conclusion

Law and order, Terrorism, Left Wing Extremism, cybercrime, are such threats which call for a strong and efficient police for internal security. Thus, overarching police reform is need of the hour in the light of complex security threats. Some more steps that can be taken are:

- **Boosting capacity and infrastructure** – including increase in the number of police personnel, improvement in training and service conditions such as improving the infrastructure, working hours, housing facilities etc.
- **Undertaking administrative reforms** – including separation of investigation from law and order, specialized wings for Social and Cyber Crimes, restricting the police to core functions, setting up

authorities as directed by the Supreme Court, strengthening state machinery and linking prosecution with police.

- **Undertaking technological reforms** – including modernization of the control room, fast tracking the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS), pushing for National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) and pushing for incorporation of new technology into policing.
- **Changes in recruitment** – Upgrading the quality of recruits and ensuring dedication and honesty in the day-to-day delivery of service to the public is equally important.
- **Role of Leadership** – All police ills are not only due to political interference in police routine. The police leadership is also responsible for improving performance.
- **Replicating Model police Act** – Centre should ensure that Model Police Act is being followed by the states.
- **Adopting Evidence based Policing** – It is a research based approach which involves identifying 'hot spots' of crime, spotting problematic individuals in a community and making decisions about what works in policing, which practices and strategies accomplish police missions most cost-effectively.



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7. UPSC Mains Previous Years' Questions

1. What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats. (2023)
2. Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the unlawful activities (Prevention) act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations. (2019)



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8. Vision IAS Mains Previous Years Questions

1. **With the Line of Actual Control (LAC) remaining tense after the Galwan and Yangste incidents and both India and China ramping up infrastructure in the border areas, discuss the role that ITBP plays in the region.**

Approach:

- Discuss the situation of increasing tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- Write the key functions of the ITBP.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

Recently, India and China held frank and in-depth talks on friction areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). In the last few years, the situation on the LAC has remained extremely tense with the Doklam, Galwan and Yangste crises. Moreover, both countries have incurred huge expenditure in ensuring defensive preparedness as well as better military infrastructure as they induct men, material and equipment close to the LAC.

This has brought the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel into greater focus** due to the following reasons:

- **Vigil on the northern borders:** The ITBP has been guarding the border from the Karakoram pass in Jammu & Kashmir to Jechap La in Arunachal Pradesh, despite facing harsh conditions such as extremely low temperatures, high-velocity storms, snow blizzards, avalanches, and landslides.
- **Detection and prevention of border violations:** Since the LAC is neither demarcated nor fenced, the ITBP acts as the government's "eyes and ears" to report Chinese activities and violations along and across the border.
- **Promotion of the sense of security among the local populace:** The ITBP conducts short- and long-range patrols, special missions, and joint patrols to dominate unmanned gaps along the China border. The force has also built 25 strategic roads and another 32 roads are under construction.
- **Medical care:** The ITBP conducts a large number of medical civic action programmes in remote border and terrorist/naxal affected areas to provide free and expert medical, health and hygiene care to the civilian population in remote villages.
- **Rescue and relief operations during disasters:** Being the first responder for natural disasters in the Himalayas, the ITBP was the first to establish Regional Response Centres and has carried out numerous rescue and relief operations in all disaster situations.
- **Security to religious pilgrims:** The ITBP has also provided security, communication and medical cover to the pilgrims during the Annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra since 1981.
- **UN peacekeeping:** The ITBP has also excelled in UN peacekeeping operations. The personnel of the force were deployed for peacekeeping operations in Angola, Namibia, Cambodia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Mozambique and Kosovo.
- **Security to sensitive installations:** ITBP battalions are providing security to various installations of national importance throughout the country, which includes Rumtek Monastery (Sikkim), Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (Uttarakhand), etc.

Considering the significance of this force, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has recently approved raising seven new ITBP battalions, giving a major push to counter Chinese manoeuvres at the border.

2. Discuss the mandate of the Special Frontier Force. What have been its achievements in ensuring the security of India?

Approach:

- Write about the Special Frontier Force (SFF) in the introduction.
- Discuss the mandate of SFF.
- Highlight its achievements in ensuring the security of India.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

The Special Frontier Force (SFF) was raised by the Intelligence Bureau after the 1962 China-India war. This covert paramilitary unit primarily recruited Tibetan exiles, but currently it consists of a mixture of Tibetans and Gorkhas.

The SFF is controlled by India's external intelligence agency, **the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)**. Though it is headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer, it reports directly to the **Cabinet Secretariat** under the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**.

Mandate of SFF

The SFF's original mandate was to infiltrate as guerrillas and conduct covert operations in Tibet. It aims to destroy Chinese strategic infrastructure; and create insurgency and rebellion in Tibet, which would in turn help the Indian Army in engaging the Chinese at the border. Over time its role has evolved and it has been used in a variety of roles such as counter-insurgency operations, infiltrating enemy lines, camouflage, and tactical and special operations.

Achievements of SFF

- **Operation Eagle (1971):** The SFF conducted successful covert operations in Chittagong Hill Tracts of East Pakistan-occupied in the 1971 war. They engaged and defeated Pakistani forces, preventing their escape to Burma.
- **Operation to Plant Electronic Intelligence Devices (1964):** SFF personnel participated in a joint operation with the Indian Army and CIA to install electronic intelligence devices for monitoring China's nuclear testing activities.
- **Operation Meghdoot (1984):** The SFF played a crucial role in securing control of the Siachen Glacier. A permanent SFF unit has been stationed at Siachen since then.
- **Kargil War (1999):** SFF battalions showcased their prowess in mountain warfare during the Kargil War. They fought alongside regular army units, earning respect for their bravery.
- **Anti-insurgency operations:** The SFF has taken part in anti-insurgency operations across India. However, the details of such operations are not available in the public domain.
- **LAC Operations:** The SFF was used by the Indian Army for preventive action against the movement of the People's Liberation Army in the aftermath of the Galwan Clash to occupy strategic heights and gain leverage over Chinese positions.

The SFF has a glorious history of protecting the nation from internal and external security threats by making supreme sacrifices. Their impact is not only limited to the tactical domain but also to strategic

domains, particularly in the context of relations with China.

3. In light of the increasing security challenges faced by India, state the need for achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing. Also, discuss the challenges in this context.

Approach:

- Give an overview of the increasing security challenges in India.
- Discuss the need for self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- State the issues faced in achieving the same.
- Conclude by mentioning the steps taken and needed to overcome the challenges.

Answer:

With a population over 1.2 billion, India constitutes the world's largest democracy, the seventh largest country, has the fourth largest military, and is a nuclear-armed state. Yet, India confronts a wide spectrum of strategic challenges to its security and economic growth. These national security challenges include not only traditional military and nuclear threats, but a multitude of other threats, including terrorism, energy security, cyber security, economic crimes etc.

In this context, there is a need to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing, owing to the following reasons:

- **High import burden:** India holds the distinction of being the second largest arms importer in the world with our **arms import during 2015-19** accounted for **nearly 10 per cent of the world's total arms import**. Though India's arms import decreased by 33 per cent between 2011-15 and 2016-20, there is a long way to go before self-reliance in defence and security is achieved.
- **Strategic reasons:** India procures 60% of its weapon systems from foreign markets, which increases its strategic vulnerability. Considering the geo-political situation around the Indian borders, external dependence and extra dependence on a single player is worrisome.
- **Harnessing domestic potential:** The defence sector has the potential for tremendous growth, create employment opportunities and reduce import burden because of the large talented pool of skill sets in terms of human resources and large-scale modernisation requirements of the armed forces.
- **National vision:** Indigenisation would help in furthering the objectives of 'Make in India' in the intermediate term which is in accordance with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Initiative' of the government.
- **Defence technology related IPR:** It is debatable if India will readily get state-of-the-art technology in weapons production owing to high level of protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) across military industrial complexes in other countries.

Challenges in achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing:

- **Absence of an overarching policy framework:** The main challenge in achieving self-reliance is the absence of a pragmatic overarching policy. Notification issued by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) in 2019 in this regard suffers from many conceptual and procedural inadequacies.
- **Absence of a mechanism to monitor self-reliance:** There is **no institutional mechanism to enable the review the progress in this direction**. The procurement data is given under numerous procurement sub-heads, and each sub-head is sketchy regarding the precise level of indigenous contribution.
- **Cosmetic emphasis on Qualitative Requirements (QRs):** Unlike in other countries where QRs are prepared by an integrated, professional agency, in India the task is performed by the individual service headquarters whose officers often lack the necessary training or expertise.

- **Limited private sector participation:** Private sector participation in India's Military Industrial Complex (MIC) growth so far has largely been marginal. The MIC proliferation will take place only if supplemented by private sector's volitional and enhanced investments in all sectors.
- **Compartmentalisation of sub-sectors:** Defence R&D, education, and production are all compartmentalised in the Indian context where networked and reciprocal arrangements do not co-exist. **The Rama Rao Committee** (2008) pointed out the lack of synergy between the R&D agency, the industry, and the users in the context of some of the major projects undertaken by the DRDO.

To overcome these challenges, the Indian government **has raised limits on foreign direct investment in the defence sector**, brought out the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**, created an **Export Promotion Cell** in the Department of Defence Production, launched **SRIJAN portal** etc. Furthermore, there is a need to take steps like fostering innovation through the Board of Research for Advanced Defence Sciences (BRADS) as recommended by the Rama Rao Committee, creating defence services estimates as a data bank to estimate the level of self-reliance in defence procurement, etc.

4. Discuss the role played by Assam Rifles in internal security of India. Also, comment on the issue of dual control structure of the force.

Approach:

- Briefly write about the Assam Rifles.
- Mention its role in the internal security of India.
- Discuss the issue of its dual control.
- Conclude with a way forward.

Answer:

The Assam Rifles is one of the six **Central Armed Police Forces** in the country. It came into being in 1835, and was formed to primarily protect British tea estates and their settlements against tribal raids. The post-independence role of the Assam Rifles included conventional combat role during the Sino-India War 1962, operating as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka in 1987 (Op Pawan), peacekeeping role and maintenance of law and order in the North-Eastern areas of India in the face of growing tribal unrest and insurgency etc.

The primary role of the Assam Rifles in the security of India is to:

- Conduct **counter insurgency operations** in the North-East and other areas where deemed necessary, under the control of the army.
- During peace and 'proxy war', **ensure security** of the Indo-China and Indo-Myanmar borders.
- During war, rear area security in the **Tactical Battle Area (TBA)**.
- Act as the **penultimate interventionist force** of the central government in internal security, under the control of the Army; when the situation goes beyond the control of central paramilitary operations.
- Promote **ethnic peace and harmony** and socio-economic development in the North-East region.

Issue of dual control of the Assam Rifles:

The Assam Rifles is the **only paramilitary force with dual control**. The administrative control over the Assam Rifles is wielded by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, while the Army (**Ministry of Defence**) manages the operational matters. This means that the salaries and infrastructure for the force is provided by the MHA, but the deployment, posting, transfer and deputation of the personnel is decided by the Army.

- This dual structure is a cause of **grievance for the force personnel** as they seek grant of pay, allowances, pension (including arrears) and ex-servicemen facilities to Assam Rifles personnel at par with the Indian Army. There are two sets of demands from both within the Assam rifles and by MoD and MHA for singular control over the force by one ministry.
- The Assam Rifles is a paramilitary force with a military ethos, and has worked well in coordination with the Army. It frees up the armed forces from many of its responsibilities to focus on its core strengths. Further, the Army has sought the overall responsibility of guarding the entire Sino-Indian border in the Eastern sector to deal effectively with Chinese transgression. Therefore, there have been demands to unify the control **under the Ministry of Defence**.
- However, there is a proposal to merge Assam Rifles with the ITBP for a unified control **under the Home Ministry**, including its operational control. The proposal is considered problematic as it could impact vigil over India's disputed border with China.

Therefore, a wider consultation is required engaging all the stakeholders.

5. Highlighting the role of the National Security Guard in India, discuss the issues associated with this force. What are the reforms required in this regard?

Approach:

- Introduce by highlighting the role of the National Security Guard.
- Discuss the issues faced by this force.
- Mention the reforms required for the force.
- Conclude on the basis of above points.

Answer:

The National Security Guard (NSG) was raised in **1984** and institutionalised under the National Security Guard Act, 1986. It operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. It is considered **India's premier counter-terrorist force** for anti-hijacking, counter-terrorism, hostage rescue and other such special operations. However, the handling of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and the attack on Pathankot air base raised **serious questions about the preparedness** of these forces.

The **various issues** associated with this force are as follows:

- The NSG Headquarters and the Academy are **manned by a mix of personnel** from all the forces with different cultural and professional outlooks leading to **coordination challenges**.
- The organisation **is headed by Director General belonging to the IPS with limited practical experience** in handling counter-terror or irregular warfare operations.
- The forces are **stationed at only a few centres** across the country. Also, **NSG's limited independent logistics** capacity causes delay in reaching its destination. For instance, delay in arrival in November 2008 Mumbai attacks, from their base in Manesar, Haryana.
- Despite constantly redesigning training programmes, it still remains **inward looking with no new ideas in operational tactics**. For instance, lack of terrain information to NSG in different geographies led to delay in conclusion of operation in Pathankot Attack.
- The force continues to be marred by **shortage of cutting-edge equipment and training aids**. The proposed Rs.1400 crores modernisation plan has remained on paper.

A **range of reforms** have been suggested in this regard, such as:

- The forces need to be established as an **independent special operations command** with its own

cadre and leadership.

- It should have a dedicated **Air Wing** to strengthen its aviation capability and timely movement.
- It should have **local quick response groups** (NSG hubs) under the central forces for rapid action response.
- There is a need to implement the **modernisation programme to effectively provide modern equipment** such as real time sensor shoot grid, vision and thermal image fusion cameras, and state of the art weaponry. The procurement system should be free from bureaucratic delays.
- **Training needs to be upgraded by sharing experiences** and interacting with specialist forces from other countries like the SAS (UK), GSG-9 (Germany).

Recently, the government has decided to remove NSG commandos from **VIP** security duties and also **proposed a NSG hub** in Punjab. In the wake of growing terrorist violence in different forms, it is pivotal that NSG emerges as a lean and agile force with focus on speed, stealth, precision and zero error.

6. Subsequent to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, the coastal security arrangement has been thoroughly reviewed by the Government of India. Comment.

Approach:

- Briefly mention the vulnerability of India's coastal borders and its failure to prevent the 26/11 attack.
- Highlight the changes/reforms made in the coastal security arrangement by the Government of India.
- Conclude on the basis of above points.

Answer:

The 26/11 Mumbai attacks exposed the vulnerabilities faced by India from the sea and its inept handling of coastal security matters including lack of coordination among different agencies. India continues to face **three levels of asymmetric threats** emanating from its long coastal borders:

- **Terror attacks** by non-state actors on population centres and vital installations like atomic power plants and naval guard bases.
- Threats posed by **organised gangs** carrying out smuggling of narcotics, arms and explosives as seen in the 1993 Mumbai Bomb blasts.
- Vulnerability of the Indian coast to **illegal inflow of migrants and refugees**.

The 26/11 attacks prompted a **paradigm shift towards a multi-pronged approach** in the maritime security apparatus with increased emphasis on surveillance, intelligence gathering and information sharing amongst the various stakeholders to ensure an effective response to any emerging situation.

Coastal Security Arrangement post 26/11 Mumbai attacks:

- **National Committee for Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS)**: It is an apex national-level review forum for maritime and coastal security, in which all concerned ministries and government agencies are represented.
- **Coastal Security Scheme (CSS)**: It provides for a **multi-tier arrangement** for patrolling and surveillance, with the Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard and the State Coastal Police, jointly securing the Indian coasts in their respective jurisdictions.
- **Joint Operations Centres (JOCs)**: They were set up by the Navy as **command and control hubs** for coastal security at Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Kochi and Port Blair. They are manned 24×7 jointly by the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Marine Police.

- **Electronic surveillance mechanism** has been augmented by provisioning of a radar chain called **Coastal Surveillance Network (CSN)** consisting of, Chain of Static Sensors, Automatic Identification System (AIS), Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT), day/night cameras etc.
- **National Command Control Communication and Intelligence Network (NC3I)**: This overarching coastal security network collates data about all ships, dhows, fishing boats and all other vessels operating near our coast, from multiple technical sources including the AIS and radar chain.
- **Fishing communities** have been made the '**eyes and ears**' of India's security architecture. It includes **coastal security awareness campaigns**, issuing **ID cards** to all fishermen with a **single centralised database**, registering and equipping **fishing vessels** with equipment to facilitate their **identification** and **tracking**.

Thus since 2008, coastal security arrangement has been strengthened substantially by these initiatives. Further, the coastal security exercises like the **Sagar Kavach** and recent pan India mega exercise **Sea Vigil** should be institutionalised.

7. It is widely recognised that India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) are in urgent need of overhaul. Discuss in the context of issues associated with personnel, infrastructure and service conditions of these forces.

Approach:

- Briefly explain what you understand by CAPF forces.
- Discuss the issues and challenges faced by CAPF forces in terms of personnel, infrastructure and service conditions, which need overhaul.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) refers to uniform nomenclature of seven security forces in India – Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Assam Rifles and National Security Guard (NSG). They come under the Ministry of Home Affairs and perform various functions such as guarding of borders, security of sensitive establishments, counter terrorism and counter-naxal operations.

In the recent past their importance has increased due to **increased deployment and dependence of states** on them. This has also brought to light several issues being faced by these forces, which need to be addressed:

➤ **Personnel:**

- There is **high attrition** in the CAPF mostly due to unregulated deployment of personnel and job discontentment. The number of personnel opting for voluntary retirement schemes in the CAPF rose to around 450% in 2016-17 as compared to the previous year according to the Home Ministry.
- There is a **lack of promotional avenues** for CAPF personnel as IPS officers enjoy a de-facto monopoly on the leadership of the forces despite having limited experience of leading them.
- They face **discrimination with regard to pay parity** in comparison with their counterparts in the armed forces and 'Group A Organised Services'. It was only recently that the CAPF personnel were granted 'non-functional upgradation', which is given to 'Group A Organised Services'.

➤ **Infrastructure:**

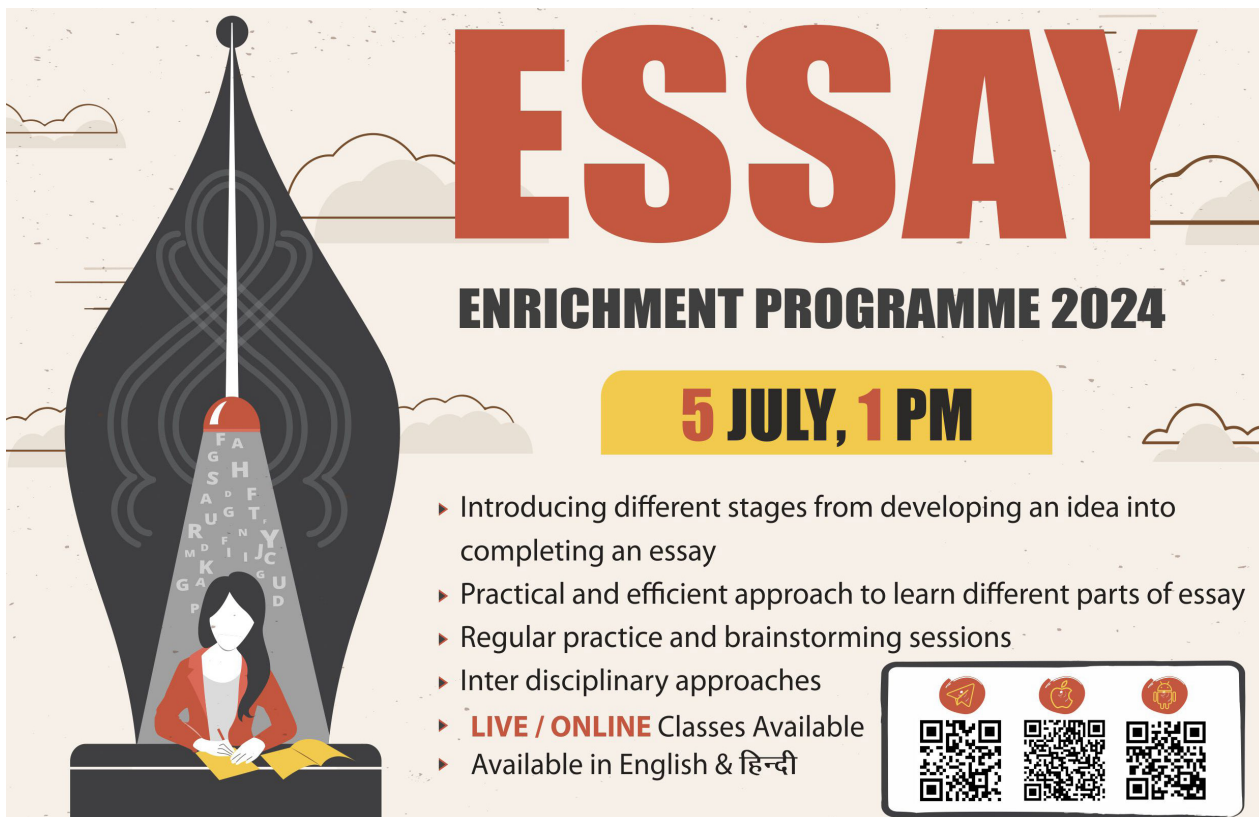
- There is a **lack of effective arms and ammunition** such as bullet-proof jackets, modern arms, surveillance equipment, armoured vehicles etc. There is also **haphazard expansion of CAPF forces**, which adds to the infrastructural burden.

- **Budget outlays** allocated for capacity augmentation of the CAPF are inadequate. Further, the **procurement process** under the 'Modernization Plan' of the CAPF is cumbersome and time consuming.
- There is a need to **upgrade the curriculum and infrastructure** in CAPF training institutes. Further, the personnel need to be adequately trained in emerging threats such as cyber security.

► **Service conditions:**

- According to the NCRB data, as many as 2,200 CAPF personnel died in accidents and suicides from 2014-2018. The Ministry of Home Affairs has revealed that suicides are mostly committed due to reasons such as **lack of stability, loneliness and domestic strife**.
- The forces are burdened due to **indifference of superiors, lack of timely sanctioned leave and basic medical facilities**. Further, they **work in harsh conditions** without any standard rotation policy. For instance, the ITBP personnel are posted in snow-bound areas all year round.
- There is **absence of in-house grievance redressal mechanism**, due to which personnel take to social media to complain about poor housing and working conditions.
- **Continuous deployment** leaves less time for rest and recuperation and adds to their frustration. The deployment of CAPF's battalions has increased from 91 in 2012-13 to 119 times in 2016-17.

India's CAPFs play a very important ground role in India's national security. They require a serious overhauling across spheres like resource allocation, accountability structure and personnel management. These challenges must be adequately addressed and independent bodies should periodically review their service conditions and other grievances.




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**Uma
Harathi N**

1
AIR



SHUBHAM KUMAR
CIVIL SERVICES
EXAMINATION 2020



HEAD OFFICE

Apsara Arcade, 1/8-B 1st Floor,
Near Gate-6 Karol Bagh
Metro Station

DELHI

MUKHERJEE NAGAR CENTER

Plot No. 857, Ground Floor,
Mukherjee Nagar, Opposite Punjab
& Sindh Bank, Mukherjee Nagar

GTB NAGAR CENTER

Classroom & Enquiry Office,
above Gate No. 2, GTB Nagar
Metro Building, Delhi - 110009

FOR DETAILED ENQUIRY

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