

Govt designates CISF as main security organisation for India's 250 seaports



NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (PTI)

IN A move aimed at strengthening security across all major and minor Indian seaports, the Centre has designated the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as the new safety regulator for about 250 facilities located along the country's maritime borders, officials said on Friday.

The categorisation of the central paramilitary force (under the Union Home Ministry) has been done by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways through an order issued on November 18, CISF Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ajay Dahiya said. The paramilitary force has been designated as a Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for seaports under the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code. An RSO acts as a regulator for seaport security. ISPS is a mandatory security regime for international shipping. "This is a significant reform and a path-breaking step to enhance security across India's seaports. As ports play a vital role in trade, logistics and India's growing Blue Economy, the Government is introducing a series of measures to modernise and standardise port security nationwide," Dahiya said.

The plan is expected to be put in place within the next six months, according to the 2023 updated guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), he said.

A senior officer said this was a "challenging" assignment for the force as it gets "new powers", leading to the acquisition of a lot of technical expertise.

He said the force has been guarding ports since 1971, and it is currently present at 13 major ones like the Chennai Port, JNPT in

Mumbai and the Cochin Port.

"For all things related to port security, the CISF will be the nodal or regulatory authority. We will work in three domains - providing consultancy for the establishment of security systems and gadgets, deploying hybrid security manpower and training all stakeholders in the sector," the senior officer said.

He said two such training sessions for private security personnel, cargo operators and other staff present on the seaport have recently been concluded by the force.

Till now, seaport security was being dealt with by the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) under the Directorate General of Shipping, and there was a requirement for a professional agency in this area, a second officer said.

The idea to have a professional and sovereign RSO emerged from various top-level security meetings chaired by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister over the last few years, where the vulnerability and security gaps in the 254 big and small seaports of the country were underlined, he said. According to official data, out of these ports, only about 65-68 are "actively" engaged in cargo operations.

Core security functions, like counter-terrorist and anti-sabotage operations, at all EXIM (export-import) ports will be carried out by the CISF, while non-core duties such as traffic management, gate control and other ancillary jobs will be rendered by private security agencies or state police forces. It is also estimated that the CISF may require as many as 80,000 personnel, at the rate of 10,000 for each, over the next few years to secure 80 major seaports as part of a new tech-enabled security paraphernalia, officials said.

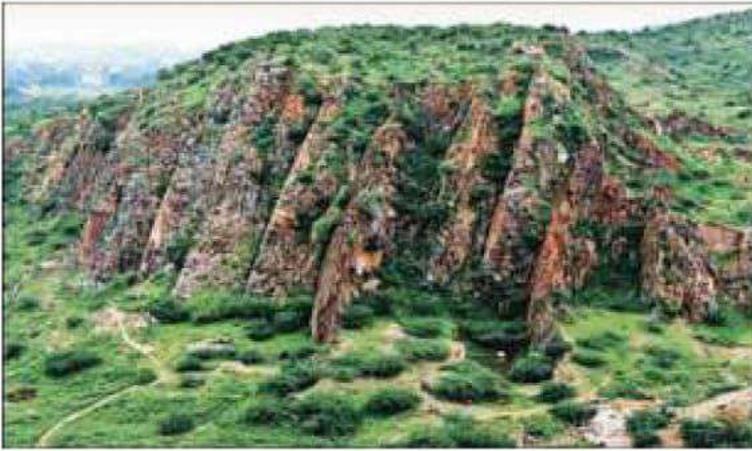
At present, the force has around 5,300 personnel deployed for these duties.

A hybrid security model, with a mix of CISF and private security personnel, improved screening systems, and dedicated training institutions for port-security personnel, is also being introduced, according to the blueprint of the new system.

SC accepts Centre's definition of Aravali Hills

Bans grant of fresh mining Teases

"Aravali Hill" will be defined as any landform in designated Aravali districts with an elevation of 100 metres or more above its local relief and an "Aravali Range" will be a collection of two or more such hills within 500 metres of each other



NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (PTI)

IN A verdict aimed at safeguarding the world's oldest mountain systems, the Supreme Court has accepted a uniform definition of the Aravali Hills and Ranges and banned grant of fresh mining leases inside its areas spanning Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat until experts' reports are out. In its last judgement, Chief Justice B R Gavaai on Thursday accepted the recommendations of a committee of MoEF&CC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) on the definition of Aravali Hills and Ranges to protect the Aravali Hills and Ranges.

"Aravali Hill" will be defined as any landform in designated Aravali districts with an elevation of 100 metres or more above its local relief and an "Aravali Range" will be a collection of two or more such hills within 500 metres of each other. The committee, while defining Aravali Hills,

said, "Any landform located in the Aravali districts, having an elevation of 100 metres or more from the local relief, shall be termed as Aravali Hills... The entire landform lying within the area enclosed by such lowest contour, whether actual or extended notionally, together with the Hill, its supporting slopes and associated landforms irrespective of their gradient, shall be deemed to constitute part of the Aravali Hills." The panel also defined Aravali Range and said, "Two or more Aravali Hills ..., located within the proximity of 500m from each other, measured from the outermost point on the boundary of the lowest contour line on either side forms Aravali Range.

"The area between the two Aravali hills is determined by first creating buffers with a width equal to the minimum distance between the lowest contour lines of both hills ... The entire area of landforms falling between the lowest contour lines of these Hills as explained, along with associated features such as Hills, Hillocks, supporting slopes, etc., shall also be included as part of Aravali Range."

The bench, also comprising justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria, delivered a 29-page judgement in the suo motu matter arising out of the long-running environmental litigation in TN Godavarman Thirumulpad case.

"We further accept the recommendations with regard to the prohibition of mining in core/inviolable areas with exception as carved out of the ... Committee's report," CJI Gavaai, who authored the judgement, said.

The bench also accepted the recommendations for sustainable mining and the steps to be taken for preventing illegal mining in Aravali Hills and Ranges.

It also directed the authorities to identify permissible areas for "mining and ecologically sensitive, conservation-critical and restoration priority areas within the Aravali landscape where mining shall be strictly prohibited or permitted only under exceptional and scientifically justified circumstances".

"We further direct that till the MPSM (Management Plan for Sustainable Mining) is finalised by the MoEF&CC through ICFRE (Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education), no new mining leases should be granted," it said.

IAF's Tejas crashes at Dubai Air Show

Pilot killed, Col ordered

DUBAI/NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (PTI)

THE pilot of a Tejas fighter jet of the Indian Air Force was killed on Friday after the indigenous multi-role Light Combat Aircraft crashed in a ball of fire during an aerial display at the Dubai Air Show.

The pilot was identified as Wing Commander Namansh Syal, who is in his mid-30s and hails from Himachal Pradesh, according to available accounts.

As the crash inside the grounds of an airfield in Dubai cast a tragic shadow on an otherwise mega spectacle on the last day of the event in the desert city, visuals of the accident aired on TV channels showed the jet abruptly dropping height after what looked like a low-altitude manoeuvre and then nosedived into the ground in a matter of seconds before being engulfed in a ball of fire.

Black smoke billowed over the Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central,

(Contd on page 3)



Wing
Commander
Namansh
Syal

World collectively needs to hike climate finance: India at COP30

BELEM (Brazil), Nov 21 (PTI)

INDIA is committed to domestic adaptation as part of climate action but there is an urgent need for a scaled-up adaptation finance as the global gap widens, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said here.

Yadav also said that the annual climate summit, COP30, must deliver a clear political message that "adaptation is not an optional add-on but an essential investment."

"The 2025 Adaptation Gap Report estimates that developing countries will need between USD 310-365 billion annually by 2035, while current flows are around USD 26 billion only," he said during his intervention at the



Bhupender Yadav

Baku High-Level Dialogue on Adaptation on Thursday at the ongoing UN COP30 summit.

Yadav expressed concern that the Glasgow Climate Pact goal of doubling public adaptation finance from

2019 levels to around USD 40 billion by 2025 is likely to be missed if the current trend continues. "It will take nothing less than a global collective effort to increase climate finance to the levels articulated in the Baku to Belem Roadmap to USD 1.3 trillion," the environment minister added.

He highlighted India's efforts and experiences in accessing adaptation finance, the barriers faced by developing countries and the global steps needed to raise adaptation ambition.

Marking the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, he underscored the importance of Article 7.6, which emphasises support for developing countries in taking effective adaptation action.

PM Modi meets Australian PM

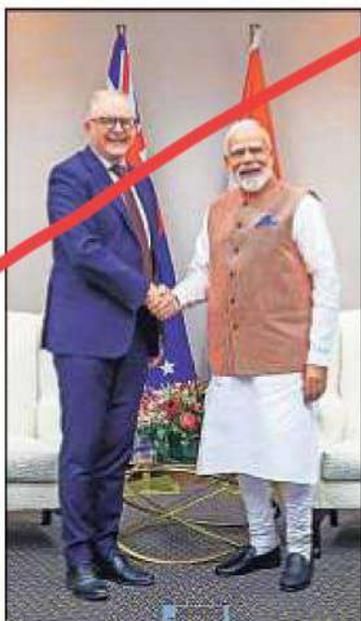
Discusses cooperation in defence & security, critical minerals, trade

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 21 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese in Johannesburg and the two leaders took stock of progress in cooperation in diverse areas, including defence and security, critical minerals, trade & investment and people-to-people ties.

PM Modi met Albanese hours after he arrived in South Africa to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit.

"Both leaders expressed satisfaction on substantial deepening and diversification of our ties as we mark 5 years of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a social media post. He said that the two leaders took stock of progress in cooperation in diverse areas, including defence and security, critical minerals, trade & investment,



Narendra Modi during a meeting with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, in Johannesburg, South Africa. (PTI)

PM meets Naspers Chairman, CEO

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 21 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a meeting with Naspers chairman and CEO on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit and discussed expanding investments in India's digital ecosystem.

Modi met with Chairman Koos Bekker and CEO Fabricio Bloisi of the South African multinational internet and technology company and the discussions focussed on "expanding investments in India's digital ecosystem, AI, Startup and space sectors and explore new avenues in consumer market and technology", Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a social media post.

"Naspers' success in India reflects ease of doing business and the strength of the Startup ecosystem in India," it added.

education and people-to-people contacts, and discussed ways to further expand multifaceted bilateral cooperation in these and new areas.

"They also committed to strengthen global fight against terrorism," he said.

Albanese expressed condolences over the recent terrorist attack in Delhi and the bus accident in Saudi Arabia, in which several Indians were killed.

"We have much to discuss, and our relationship is very strong," he said.