



## Assam Rifles

### Why in News?

- Recently, the **187<sup>th</sup> Raising Day of the Assam Rifles** has been celebrated in **Shillong**. **Assam Rifles is the watchdog of the North East and the oldest paramilitary force in the country.**

### What is the Key Role of Assam Rifles?

- Assam Rifles is a **Central Paramilitary Force** under the [Central Armed Police Forces](#).
- It came into being in **1835**, as a militia called the **‘Cachar Levy’**, to primarily protect **British Tea estates and their settlements against tribal raids**.
- It significantly contributed to the opening of Assam region to administration and commerce and over time it came to be known as the **“right arm of the civil and left arm of the military”**.
- Assam Rifles has **two battalions stationed in Jammu and Kashmir and one [National Disaster Relief Force battalion](#)**, which is playing its active role in case of natural calamities.
- Although India has been contributing to the [UN peacekeeping](#) for many years, the addition of the **Rifewomen Team of the Assam Rifles** adds another social and human dimension to our commitment to the community of nations.
- Major role post-Independence:
  - Conventional combat role during the [Sino-India War 1962](#).
  - Operations in a foreign land as part of the [Indian Peace Keeping Force to Sri Lanka](#) in 1987 (Operation Pawan).
  - Peacekeeping role in the North-Eastern areas of India.
- In November 2019, [MHA proposed to merge it](#) with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
  - ITBP is a specialized mountain force, raised in October 1962.
  - It is deployed on border guarding duties from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh covering 3488 km of Indo-China Border.

### What is the Central Armed Police Forces?

- The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) refers to **seven security forces** in India under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - Assam Rifles (AR)
  - Border Security Force (BSF)
  - Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
  - Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
  - Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
  - National Security Guard (NSG)
  - Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

[Source: PIB](#)

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