



# Operation Mahila Suraksha

## Why in News?

Under the Operation Mahila Suraksha, **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has arrested more than 7000 persons who were traveling unauthorizedly in the coaches reserved for women.

- RPF also rescued girls/women from becoming the victims of [human trafficking \(Operation AAHT\)](#).

## What is Operation Mahila Suraksha?

- **About:**
  - The pan-India drive "Operation Mahila Suraksha" was launched from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 to ensure women's security.
- **Other Such Operation:**
  - With an objective of providing enhanced safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey a pan India initiative "**Meri Saheli**" is also operational.
    - Indian Railways has launched "**Meri Saheli**" initiative for focused action on **security of women** across all zones with an objective to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station.

## What is the Railway Protection Force (RPF)?

- The contingent of RPF is an **Armed Force of the Union of India**. It is a security force under the ownership of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways.
  - The history of the RPF **dates back to 1882** when various railway companies appointed their own guards for protection of railway property.
- The **force was declared as statutory force in the year 1957** by an enactment of Parliament subsequently declared as an Armed Force of the Union of India in the year 1985.
- The **RPF Rules were enacted in 1959** and RPF Regulations published in 1966. In the same year, some limited powers to apprehend and prosecute offenders involved in railway property were conferred on the Force by enacting the **Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966**.
- Primarily RPF has been entrusted with **responsibility of the safety of Railway property**. But, while the provisions of RPF Act were soon found wanting for the maintenance of an effective and disciplined Force, the RPF Rules and Regulations too were found judicially unsound.
  - The RPF Act, 1957 was accordingly modified by [Parliament in 1985](#) for the constitution and maintenance of the Force as an armed force of the Union.

[Source: PIB](#)

