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# PM Chairs First High-Level CAPF Conference: Synergy, Modernisation, and the Internal Security Architecture

17 April 2026

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CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

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# PM Chairs First High-Level CAPF Conference: Synergy, Modernisation, and the Internal Security Architecture

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## WHY IN NEWS:

On April 17, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired India's first-ever high-level conference dedicated exclusively to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in New Delhi — bringing together the leadership of the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, and SSB to address coordination gaps, modernisation priorities, and personnel welfare across India's ~9.5 lakh-strong paramilitary establishment.

## WHAT ARE THE CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES?

The **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** are India's primary paramilitary establishments under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**. They are constitutionally distinct from the armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, which fall under the Ministry of Defence) and from state police (under state governments). CAPFs occupy the operational space between conventional military and civilian policing — handling internal security, border guarding, industrial protection, and counter-insurgency.

## The Five CAPFs

FORCE	FULL NAME	PRIMARY ROLE	STRENGTH (APPROX.)
<b>CRPF</b>	Central Reserve Police Force	Internal security; LWE; election duty	~3.25 lakh
<b>BSF</b>	Border Security Force	Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders	~2.65 lakh
<b>CISF</b>	Central Industrial Security Force	Airports, PSUs, critical infrastructure	~1.75 lakh
<b>ITBP</b>	Indo-Tibetan Border Police	India-China LAC	~90,000
<b>SSB</b>	Sashastra Seema Bal	Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders	~95,000

Total combined strength: approximately **9.5 lakh personnel**.

## WHAT THE CONFERENCE ADDRESSED

### 1. Inter-Force Synergy

A long-standing critique of CAPF operations is **siloe**d functioning: each force operates within its mandate but inter-force intelligence sharing, joint training, and cross-deployment protocols have been weak. The conference focused on creating institutional mechanisms — joint operations centres, common intelligence pools, and integrated logistics — to address this.

### 2. Intelligence Integration with NIA, R&AW, and IB

A key theme was integrating CAPF ground intelligence with national agencies — the **Intelligence Bureau (IB)** for domestic intelligence, the **Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW)** for external intelligence, and the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** for counter-terror prosecution. The proposed **Multi-Agency Centre (MAC)** mechanism was identified for further institutional strengthening.

### 3. Counter-Threat Modernisation

The conference addressed contemporary security threats:

- **Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)** — though the LWE-affected districts have reduced from 90 (in 2021) to 38 (in 2025), residual operational challenges in core areas of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha persist.
- **Border infiltration** — particularly along the India-Pakistan border (BSF) and India-China LAC (ITBP).
- **Cyber-enabled threats** — drone-based smuggling, encrypted communications, deepfake-driven radicalisation.

### 4. Personnel Welfare

A persistent concern in CAPFs has been the **suicide and stress-related mortality rate** among personnel — sometimes exceeding combat casualties. The conference addressed mental health support, family welfare schemes, posting transparency, and the long-pending demand for **Organised Group A Service (OGAS)** status for CAPF officers.

## THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY ARCHITECTURE

CAPFs operate under specific statutes:

FORCE	GOVERNING ACT
CRPF	Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949
BSF	Border Security Force Act, 1968
CISF	Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968
ITBP	Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992
SSB	Governed by MHA executive orders; statutory framework being formalised

CAPFs are **Union government forces**, but their deployment in states is governed by:

- **Article 355** — Centre’s duty to protect every state against external aggression and internal disturbance.
- **Article 356** (rare) — President’s Rule scenarios.
- **Mutual aid arrangements** — states requesting CAPF deployment for law and order, communal situations, elections.

## THE BROADER INTERNAL SECURITY DOCTRINE

The CAPF Conference reflects a maturing of India’s **internal security doctrine** — moving from reactive deployment to **proactive coordination**:

- 1 **Threat-based deployment** — using data analytics to allocate forces dynamically rather than static postings.
- 2 **Capability-based modernisation** — investment in surveillance technology (drones, satellite imagery, sensor networks), counter-drone systems, and AI-enabled threat detection.
- 3 **Integrated welfare** — recognising that operational effectiveness depends on personnel well-being.

## REFORM PATHWAYS AND PENDING

Several long-pending CAPF reforms were addressed at the conference:

- **OGAS recognition** for CAPF officers — would grant parity with other Group A central services in promotion, allowances, and post-retirement benefits.
- **Cadre review** — addressing stagnation in mid-level and senior promotions.
- **Modernisation Plan IV** — successor to the existing modernisation framework, focusing on intelligence-driven operations and indigenous equipment.

- **Permanent Commission for women** — expanding from existing limited combat roles to full operational deployment.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	ANGLE
GS-3 — Internal Security	CAPF roles, coordination, modernisation, LWE, border security, intelligence integration
GS-2 — Polity & Governance	Centre-state security cooperation, Article 355, MAC, NIA
GS-3 — Economy	CAPF industrial security and the strategic infrastructure cost of internal security
GS-4 — Ethics	Mental health and welfare of security personnel; institutional duty of care
Mains Keywords	CAPF, CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, Multi-Agency Centre, internal security, LWE, Article 355, OGAS, Modernisation Plan IV

## FACTS CORNER

ITEM	DETAIL
CAPF total strength	~9.5 lakh personnel across 5 forces
Largest CAPF	CRPF (~3.25 lakh)
Border-guarding CAPFs	BSF (Pak/Bangladesh), ITBP (LAC), SSB (Nepal/Bhutan)
Critical infra CAPF	CISF (airports, PSUs, metros)
LWE-affected districts	Reduced from 90 (2021) to 38 (2025)
Governing Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
Constitutional basis	Article 355 (deployment); statutory CAPF Acts
Conference convener	Prime Minister Narendra Modi (first such PM-chaired conference)

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