



ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

CRPF - A SAGA OF GLORY AND SACRIFICE

On the 77th Anniversary of the CRPF, a special publication on the history and achievements of India's premier central armed police force for internal security

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

PRE-INDEPENDENCE



The Crown Representative's Police (CRP) was raised on 27th July 1939, to help the native states preserve law and order as a part of the imperial policy.

It was headquartered in Nimach (North India Mounted Artillery and Cavalry

Headquarter) because of its strategic location.

The mere presence of the Crown Representative's Police led to the restoration of law and order. Their services rendered during the Hur uprising (1942-44) was appreciated and Commandant Maj. Peart was awarded the 'Order of the British Empire'. Late Naik Barkat Singh, was decorated with George Cross in 1942. Late Subedar Major Channan Singh was awarded the title of 'Sardar Saheb' for Balasinor operations in 1944. With the ever-growing popularity of the CRP as an efficient and effective police force, the demand for its deployment increased manifold.

POST INDEPENDENCE :

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, 'The Iron Man of India', the then first Home Minister of a newly independent nation had an enormous task in hand to abolish princely states and integrate them into states under the Union of India. Sardar Patel visualised a multi-dimensional role for the CRP in tune with the changing needs of a newly independent nation. He introduced the Central Reserve Police Bill in the Parliament and the CRPF, as one of the Armed Forces of the Union, came into being in 1949 and thus the Crown Representative Police (CRP) transformed into Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). CRPF played a glorious role of carrying out the intricate task of integration of small states into the Federal

Republic of India. It speaks volumes of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's foresight and wisdom that he not only ordered the retention of this elite force in its reformed name as the Central Reserve Police but also envisioned it as a strong-armed Force of the Union of India to perform multifarious roles. Presidential Colour was awarded to CRPF on 19th March 1950, for its commendable services.



Presentation of Colour to CRPF by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Soon after Independence, contingents of the CRPF were deployed in Kutch, Rajasthan and Sindh borders to check infiltration and trans-border crimes. CRPF also carried out anti-dacoity operations in Punjab, Rajasthan and Chambal area of Madhya Bharat. Initial stage of handling law & order situation soon changed its complexion and force was entrusted with shouldering responsibility of fighting insurgency in Naga and Mizo hills. This took considerable time and energy of the force to bring the situation under control. They were, subsequently, deployed on the Pakistan border in Rajasthan and J&K following attacks launched by the Pakistani infiltrators.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...



HOTSPRINGS: 1959

One of its earliest operations was against the Chinese on 21st October 1959 at a place called Hot Springs (Ladakh), where the martyrdom of ten CRPF personnel led to the day being observed as the 'Police Commemoration Day' throughout the country. This was the first major incident with the Chinese troops on the international borders that precipitated the Sino-India war of 1962.



CRPF troops paying tribute to valiant jawans at Hot Spring

SARDAR POST : 1965

Another notable date in its history is 9th April 1965, when a small contingent of the 2nd battalion of CRPF successfully fought and repulsed an attack by a Pakistani brigade at Sardar and Tak Posts in Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. CRPF managed to kill 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four of them, losing six of their own men. This day is celebrated as 'Valour Day' by the CRPF.



CRPF troops salute their brave hearts at Sardar Post

UPGRADATION OF COMMAND FROM IGTODG

The force continuously rose to the expectations and confidence posed by the people and GoI, leading to a huge expansion in 1967-68. A re-organization plan was implemented, with the formation of Group Centres at key locations depending on the level of deployment. The post of IGP, who headed the force was upgraded to Director General. Shri V. G. Kanetkar, IP of Rajasthan cadre was appointed as its first DG in 1968.



Sh V G Kanetkar,
1st DG of CRPF

ROLES AND CHALLENGES

BROAD GAMUT OF DUTIES PERFORMED BY THE CRPF

Upholding the motto 'Service & Loyalty', the force has risen to the following mandate:

- Act as second line of defence during external aggression;
- Assist Centre and States in countering insurgency, terrorism and naxalism;
- Assist state administrations in maintaining law and order situations during communal flare ups, violent agitations and civil unrests;
- Provide security cover to VIPs, vital and religious installations;
- Assist in conducting parliamentary and assembly elections;
- Represent India in various UN peace keeping missions;
- Conduct rescue & relief operations during calamities;
- Check environmental degradation and protect local flora and fauna.

CHANGE OF DRESS CODE

To begin with, the dress code of CRP was kept simple – Pagri was kept to identify with rural India, khaki shorts for the convenience of British to beat the heat. Instead of Lanyard, a leather strap was hung with a short button.



This pattern of uniform was changed during 1967-68. The shorts were replaced by full pants and pagri by khaki beret cap, with a blue Chindi under the CRP badge.

THEATRES OF ACTION

NORTH-EAST REGION:

CRPF was first inducted in the North-East during 1957 in Nagaland when insurgency had just started in the

district of Naga Hills and Tuensang areas. In late seventies when extremist elements disturbed peace in Tripura and Manipur, CRPF battalions had to be deployed in strength. The presence of CRPF along with other forces succeeded to large extent in stabilizing the situation.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Since the late 80s, CRPF is playing a crucial role in containing terrorism and tackling the law and order problem meticulously in the state. The force guards and provides security cover to pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi Temple and Amaranth Cave. It guards the national highway throughout the year. The force has been toiling hard to bring peace and tranquility to win hearts and mind of the people in the state.



LEFT WING EXTREMISM (LWE)

During 1969-70 the country, for the first time, witnessed a new form of uprising in the shape of naxalism. The force was heavily deployed in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. The problem of naxalism in India is one of the biggest threats to the country. Today, more than one third of the force is deployed in left wing extremist affected areas to control left-wing extremism. The force is continuously operating against the naxals and simultaneously working hard to provide assistance to state administration in bringing development in the area.

PUNJAB

In the early eighties militancy engulfed the state of Punjab. CRPF worked round the clock to curb the militant movement. The role played by CRPF in bringing normalcy in Punjab is still remembered.

RAISING OF SPECIALISED TROOPS

Maintaining internal security is a very sensitive and challenging assignment. To shoulder complex internal security challenges in different operational theatres, specialised troops is need of the hour. This requires highly professional and trained troops to handle different operational challenges. CRPF has been entrusted with the mandate to maintain the internal security of the country. The force has risen to the requirements of these internal security challenges of the nation and in the run has raised following specialised troops:-

MAHILA BATTALION

In the fast changing world, women have started working shoulder to shoulder with men. CRPF was pioneer in acknowledging this fact and for the first time in the history of India, a full fledged battalion of women was raised on 6th Feb., 1986. To meet ever increasing requirement of Mahila troops in dealing with Internal Security problems, five more Mahila Bns. have been raised. With substantive increase of women troopers, it has added to the operational efficiency of the force. Mahila troops have proven their worth in handling / curbing women agitators / agitations. Raising of Mahila Battalions has helped in establishing the CRPF as a people friendly force. In a first in world history, in the year 2006, a Fully Formed Female Police Unit (FFFPU) of CRPF was deployed on United Nation Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The female contingent of CRPF also guarded the President's Palace of Liberia. They served there for nine years continuously in rotation.



RAPID ACTION FORCE (RAF)

The Rapid Action Force (RAF) is a specialised 10 battalion wing of the Indian Central Reserve Police Force. It was formed in October 1992, to deal with communal riots and related civil unrest. The force has also provided contingents to United Nations peace-

keeping missions in Haiti, Kosovo and Liberia which is a testimony to its effectiveness and achievements. Because of the glorious work done by RAF it was presented Presidential Colour by Shri L.K.Advani, the then Home Minister of India on 07th October, 2003.

SPECIAL DUTY GROUP (SDG)

The Special Duty Group came into being to assist the SPG in providing an outer cordon security cover at the residences and offices of all SPG protectees. During the parliament attack on 13th Dec 2001, the SDG played a crucial role in thwarting the attack.

COMMANDO BATTALION FOR RESOLUTE ACTION (CoBRA)



The Maoist menace was threatening the country for several years and it was the single biggest threat to the internal security of the country. CRPF accepted the challenge and was deployed heavily on very short notice in LWE areas. To fight the Maoists in jungles, CRPF raised 10 special Bns. named Commando Battalion for Resolute Action, 'CoBRA'. These Bns are playing a crucial role in operations against antinational elements and hitting the naxals at the core of naxal heartland.

PARLIAMENT DUTY GROUP (PDG)

Parliament Duty Group is an elite CRPF unit tasked to provide armed protection to the Parliament House. It comprises 1,540 personnel drawn from various units of CRPF. PDG members are trained in combating nuclear and bio-chemical attacks, rescue operations and behavioural management. The present unit of Parliament Security Service was trained, keeping the December 2001 terrorist attack in mind.



TRAINING: THE CORE FACTOR

The multifaceted role of CRPF while maintaining the internal security of the country is a well known fact. The traditional law & order problems have now turned into complex internal security issues. The fast changing internal security scenario has changed the whole thought process of training in CRPF. Training has now taken centre stage. Force has changed its training methodologies keeping into consideration modus operandi, modernisation of weaponry/gadgets, psych, etc. of antinational elements. Regular updation and changes are being made in training curriculum so that the CRPF could effectively deal with these challenges. To keep its troops highly trained, motivated and to hone their skills for ever changing role, fresh entrants are made to undergo rigorous basic training. Serving personnel are exposed to frequent specialised training in the field of counter insurgency and anti terrorist operations, jungle warfare, improvised explosive device, riot control, intelligence, etc. As on date, the Force has 20 Training Institutes to infuse required professionalism at all level so that future challenges can be met effectively and firmly but with a humane touch.

LAURELS IN SPORTS



Over the years CRPF has produced many outstanding sportsmen and athletes, who have brought great honour and appreciation both within the country and abroad.

Shri G. S. Randhwa was the first Indian recipient of Arjuna Award for his achievements in the field of athletics and has been decorated with a Padma Shri. Ace Weightlifter Ms. Kunjarani Devi, is awarded with Arjuna award, Rajiv Gandhi

Khel Ratan and is also recipient of Padma Shri. Shri Hari Chand, Shri Khajan Singh, Shri R. S. Bal, Shri Paramjit Singh are few of the other athletes who are remembered by one and all. CRPF sports stars have given the force 15 Arjuna Awards and innumerable Podium finishes. The women of CRPF – Sanamacha Chanu, Geeta Rani, K.H.T. Devi, Anita Chanu, Shilpi Singh and Sandhya Rani to name a few – have brought glory to the force by securing several distinctions in the field of sports.



CRPF MUSEUM



The CRPF Museum at NIMACH (M.P.) has been revived at Kadarapur, Gurgaon. The museum brings amazing facts about the formation of the Crown Representative's Police and its journey to one of the world's largest paramilitary as Central Reserve Police Force.

NPBI



The National Police Band Institute (NPBI) has been reinstated at Kadarapur, Gurgaon. It aims at running various courses to train musicians. The musicians from other Paramilitary Forces and States will also be trained in this Institute.

THE LARGEST PARAMILITARY FORCE

Starting with just one Battalion of 08 officers, 30 Subordinate Officers and 970 other ranks, begotten by the 'urgency' component in the Internal Security aspect in the history of the Nation, the Force stands today to be the largest paramilitary force in the country, with a strength of over three lakh fourteen thousand men and women. As on date the Force has 232 Bns (including 206 Executive Bns, 06 Mahila Bns, 10 RAF Bns, 10 CoBRA Bns), 05 Signal Bns, 01 Special Duty Group, 01 Parliament Duty Group, 43 Group Centres, 20 Training Institutions, 03 Central Weapon Stores and 21 Composite Hospitals.

CULTURE AND ETHOS

The culture of the CRPF can thus be declared as a force which is believed for its efficiency, which is trusted for its performance, which is demanded for its neutrality, which is deployed for its speed and which is lauded for its performance. This culture is not a product of a few years of tough discharge of duties. It is a culture that is groomed right from the day the notification for the recruitment is announced and ensured by rigorous training and pre-induction briefing and supervision by immediate seniors when the new entrant is still a green horn. The culture of excellence in operational performance and competition to sacrifice their lives for the nation is reflected through Skill, Speed and Sacrifice.



WE SALUTE OUR BRAVE HEARTS

CRPF salutes all its men and women who have sacrificed their life in service of the nation. Since its raising as Crown Representative's Police, 2052 officers and Jawans have attained martyrdom. As on date the CRPF is decorated with :

George Cross	01	King PMG	03	Ashok Chakra	01
Kirti Chakra	01	Padma Shri	01	Vir Chakra	01
Shaurya Chakra	14	PPFSMG	49	PPMG	191
Yudh Seva Medal	01	Sena Medal	05	Vishist Seva Medal	04
PMG	1146	IPMG	05	Jeewan Raksha Padak	03
PM's Police Medal for life Saving	100			Total-1526	