

Central Reserve Police Force

CRPF institutes SHAKTI Award

Aims to incentivize efforts towards gender equality

In yet another progressive step towards gender equality, CRPF has decided to institute a special award under the title “Shakti Award” with effect from this year. The intra-CRPF annual award carrying a cash reward of rupees One Lakh along with citation and trophy will be presented to the winner on the occasion of the CRPF anniversary event. All serving members of the Force will be eligible for the award.

The criteria to be factored into the selection process of the winner would include women-conducive infrastructure, work environment, ease of living with safety in addition to addressing women specific issues and related innovation/initiatives.

CRPF shares a sizable space with its women workforce. It was CRPF which raised the first ever all-women battalion of the world on 6th February 1986. As of now the Force has 6 exclusive ‘mahila’ battalion. Its riot and crowd control wing RAF also has a fare share of women personnel who have always proved their operational worth. The female components of the Force have always risen to the occasion, even in fields beyond their comfort zone. They have not only exhibited their battle-mettle fighting enemies of the nation but also have excelled in the various national & international sporting events, exemplified in winning coveted medals like Ashok Chakra for gallantry to Arjuna Awards for sporting competence. Not only on home turf but also in overseas assignments, CRPF’s women personnel have enlisted sufficient honour. On 20th January 2007 an all-women formed contingent of CRPF was sent to Liberia under the UN Peacekeeping Mission. Earlier they had also formed an important part of the IPKF in war-torn Sri Lanka. As recently as on 26th January 2020, the entire world was witness to the impressive motorcycle-borne aerobics of the women bikers’ team of CRPF during the Republic Day parade.

Being alive to the immense contribution of its women warriors, CRPF has taken many a gender-bender initiatives to optimize their outcome. Under gender budgeting, the Force has made efforts in setting up crèche to take care of babies of women personnel out on deployment. Similarly, the vehicles for women personnel as part of convoy are ensured to have washroom facilities for ease of journey. Recently gender-akin full body protectors have been provisioned to ensure physical comfort of the women personnel while handling conflicts.

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