

Home Minister Shri Amit Shah lays foundation stone of 97th Battalion RAF Campus in Karnataka

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah performed Bhoomi Poojan and laid the foundation stone of 97 Battalion RAF CRPF campus at Bhadravati, Shivamogga, Karnataka today. The ceremony was attended by state Chief Minister Shri B S Yediyurappa, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coals, and Mines, Shri Pralhad Joshi and other dignitaries. The Home Minister also released hardcover and ebook versions of the bilingual 'CRPF Mantras of a Dynamic Force'- a book illustrating the versatile roles of this dynamic force.

In his address the Home Minister lauded the contribution of RAF in maintenance of peace and order across the country, and remarked that RAF personnel have earned trust and credibility owing to expertise and excellence which became the reason for invitation from UN in their peace keeping missions in 2006.

Dr. A. P Maheswari, DG CRPF expressed gratitude to the government for allocating land to CRPF and to the people for giving the force a place in their hearts. The DG said that RAF is a people friendly, gender sensitive, and neutral force which is not only demanded by all states across the country but has also made its mark on international forums.

Rapid Action Force is the specialised force of CRPF to deal with riots and situations relating to public order. Raised in 1992, RAF has made a distinct reputation owing to its courage, commitment, and professional efficacy. The peacekeepers of RAF clad in blue camouflage uniforms have become a symbol of effectiveness and 'Serving humanity with sensitive policing'- the motto of RAF. Owing to the increased demand of RAF, the Government of India had approved raising of 5 new RAF battalions in 2018 thus taking its strength to 15 battalions. Of these 5 battalions, 97 Battalion RAF has been strategically placed at Shivamogga, located almost in the central part of Karnataka, to deal with riots or riot like situations primarily in Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Puducherry and Lakshadweep and also attend to the needs of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh if so required.

The 50.29 acres of land provided by the state will not only serve as the Headquarters of 97Bn RAF but the proposed 314 quarters will also cater to the housing needs of RAF personnel and their families. Attuned to the needs of personnel and families, the campus will have amenities like hospital, Kendriya vidyalaya, administrative building, family welfare centre, and sports facilities including stadium and swimming pool.

