

Each year during the Budget Session, Rajya Sabha examines the working of certain ministries. This year it has identified four ministries for discussion, which includes the Ministry of Home Affairs. In light of this, we analyse some key functions of the Ministry and the challenges in carrying out these functions.

What are the key functions of Ministry of Home Affairs?

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is primarily responsible for: (i) maintenance of internal security, (ii) governance issues between the centre and states, and (iii) disaster management. It also discharges several other key functions that include: (i) border management, (ii) administration of union territories, (iii) implementation of provisions relating to the official languages, and (iv) conducting the population census every ten years.

Under the Constitution, 'public order' and 'police' are [state list](#) subjects. The MHA assists the state governments by providing them: (i) central armed police forces, and (ii) financial assistance for modernising state police forces, communication equipment, weaponry, mobility, training and other police infrastructure.

What is the role of the central armed police forces?

Table 1: Vacancies in the CAPFs (2012-17)

Year	Sanctioned strength (in lakhs)	Actual strength (in lakhs)	% of vacancies
2012	8.9	7.6	14%
2013	9.1	8.3	9%
2014	9.3	8.7	6%
2015	9.5	8.9	7%
2016	9.7	9.0	7%
2017	10.8	9.2	15%

Source: "Data on Police Organizations", Bureau of Police Research and Development, 2012-2017; PRS.

Note: Figures for each year are as of January 1 of that year.

The MHA manages seven central police forces: (i) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) which assists in internal security and law and order, (ii) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) which protects vital installations (like airports) and public sector undertakings, (iii) National Security Guards which is a special counter-terrorism force, and (iv) four border guarding forces, namely, Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Assam Rifles (AR).

As of January 2017, the [total sanctioned strength](#) of the seven CAPFs was 10.8 lakhs. However, 15% of these posts (i.e., about 1.6 lakhs posts) were lying vacant. The vacancy in the CAPFs has remained above 7% for the last five years (see Table 1). In 2017, the Sashastra Seema Bal had the highest vacancy (57%). The CRPF, which accounts for 30% of the total sanctioned strength of the seven CAPFs, had a vacancy of 8%.

How does MHA assist the police forces?

In Union Budget 2018-19, Rs [1,07,573](#) crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry has estimated to spend 82% of this amount on [police](#). The remaining allocation is towards grants to Union Territories, and other items including disaster management,

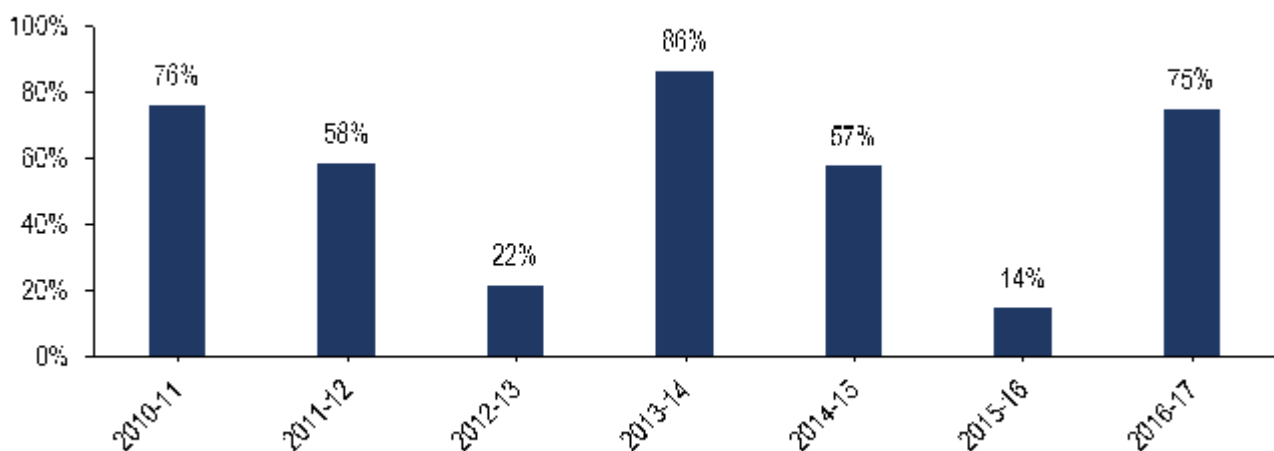
rehabilitation of refugees and migrants, and the Union Cabinet.

The MHA has been implementing [Modernisation of Police Forces \(MPF\)](#) scheme since 1969 to supplement the resources of states for modernising their police forces. Funds from the MPF scheme are utilised for improving police infrastructure through construction of police stations, and provision of modern weaponry, surveillance, and communication equipment. Some other important objectives under the scheme include upgradation of training infrastructure, police housing, and computerisation.

The scheme has undergone revision over the years. A total allocation of Rs [11,946 crore](#) was approved for the MPF scheme, for a five-year period between 2012-13 to 2016-17. Following the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission (to increase the share of central taxes to states), it was decided that the MPF scheme would be [delinked](#) from central government funding from 2015-16 onwards. However, in September 2017, the Union Cabinet approved an outlay of Rs [25,060 crore](#) under the scheme, for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. The central government will provide about 75% of this amount, and the states will provide the remaining 25%.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has found that weaponry in several state police forces is outdated, and there is a [shortage of arms and ammunitions](#). An audit of [Rajasthan police force](#) (2009-14) found that there was a shortage of 75% in the availability of modern weapons against the state's requirements. In case of [West Bengal](#) and [Gujarat](#) police forces, CAG found a shortage of 71% and 36% respectively. Further, there has been a persistent problem of [underutilisation of modernisation funds](#) by the states. Figure 1 shows the level of utilisation of modernisation funds by states between 2010-11 and 2016-17.

Figure 1: Utilisation of funds for modernisation (%)



Sources: [Data on Police Organizations](#), Bureau of Police Research and Development, 2011-17; PRS.

What are the major internal security challenges in India?

Maintaining internal security of the country is one of the key functions of the MHA. The major internal security challenges that India faces are: (i) terrorist activities in the country, (ii) cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, (iii) Left Wing Extremism in certain areas, and (iv) insurgency in the North-Eastern states.

[Between 2015 and 2016, the number of cross-border infiltrations in Jammu and Kashmir increased by almost three times](#), from 121 to 364. On the other hand, incidents of insurgency in [Left Wing Extremism](#) areas have decreased from 1,048 in 2016 to 908 in 2017.

The Standing Committee on Home Affairs noted in [2017-18](#) that security forces in Jammu and

Kashmir are occupied with law and order incidents, such as stone pelting, which gives militants the time to reorganise and perpetrate terror attacks. The Committee recommended that the MHA should adopt a multi-pronged strategy that prevents youth from joining militancy, curbs their financing, and simultaneously launch counter-insurgency operations.

In relation to Left Wing Extremism, [the Standing Committee \(2017\)](#) observed that police and paramilitary personnel were getting killed because of mine blasts and ambushes. It recommended that the MHA should make efforts to procure mine-resistant vehicles. This could be done through import or domestic manufacturing under the 'Make in India' programme.

What is the MHA's role in border management?

India has a land border of over 15,000 kms, which it shares with seven countries (Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Afghanistan). Further, it has a coastline of over 7,500 kms. The MHA is [responsible for](#): (i) management of international lands and coastal borders, (ii) strengthening of border guarding, and (iii) creation of infrastructure such as roads, fencing, and lighting of borders.

Construction of border outposts is one of the components of infrastructure at border areas. The [Standing Committee on Home Affairs \(2017\)](#) noted that the proposal to construct 509 outposts along the India-Bangladesh, and India-Pakistan borders had been reduced to 422 outposts in 2016. It recommended that such a reduction should be reconsidered since 509 outposts would reduce the inter-border outpost distance to 3.5 kms, which is important for the security of the country.

How is coastal security carried out?

[Coastal security](#) is jointly carried out by the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, and marine police of coastal states and Union Territories. The MHA is implementing the Coastal Security Scheme to strengthen the marine police of nine coastal states and four Union Territories by enhancing surveillance, and improve patrolling in coastal areas. Under this scheme, the Ministry sought to construct coastal police stations, purchase boats, and acquire vehicles for patrolling on land, among other objectives.

The [Standing Committee on Home Affairs \(2017\)](#) observed that the implementation of Phase-II of this scheme within the set time-frame has not been possible. It also noted that there was lack of coordination between the Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard, and the coastal police. In this context, the Committee recommended that the Director General, Indian Coast Guard, should be the nodal authority for coordinating operations related to coastal security.

Share this:

- [Email](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Google](#)
- [Youdao](#)
- [Xian Guo](#)
- [Zhua Xia](#)
- [My Yahoo!](#)
- [newsgator](#)

- [Bloglines](#)
- [iNezha](#)

END

Downloaded from [crackIAS.com](#)

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

crackIAS.com