Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Defence*

Why in News?

The Director General said recently at the ITBP's 64th Raising Day Parade in Udhampur that ITBP is set to establish all-woman forward posts at 10 locations along the 3,488 km India-China border.

- It is a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) under the ***Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).***
- **Nickname –** It is known as the ***"Himveers"*** (brave soldiers of the Himalayas).
- **Formation –** It was raised on October 24, 1962, in the ***aftermath of the Sino-Indian War***, to guard the Himalayan borders.
- **Formed under –** ITBP was initially raised under the ***CRPF Act***, however, in 1992, parliament enacted the ***ITBPF Act,*** and the rules thereunder were framed in 1994.
- **Primary role –** At present, the ITBP guards a 3,488 km-long ***India-China border*** ranging from the Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Motto –** "***Shaurya – Dridhata - Karma Nishtha***" (Valour – Determination – Devotion to Duty).
- **Functions – Border Security –** Vigil on the northern borders, detection and prevention of border violations, and promotion of the sense of security among the local populace.
- **Internal Security –** Deployed for counter-insurgency and election duties, checks illegal immigration, trans-border smuggling, and crimes.
- **Disaster Response –** Specialized in mountaineering, rescue, and relief during earthquakes, floods, and avalanches.
- **Security –** Protects sensitive installations, banks, and protected persons.
- **UN peacekeeping operations –** The Force is deployed for peacekeeping operations in Angola, Namibia, Cambodia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Mozambique, and Kosovo.

- **Strategic Importance –** ITBP is often called the "**Sentinels of the Himalayas**" because of its deployment in extreme terrain and weather.
- Plays a crucial role in India-China border standoffs (e.g., Doklam, Galwan).
- Works in coordination with the Army but remains under civilian control (MHA).

References

Indian Express | ITBP to establish 10 all-woman forward posts

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