

In a 1st, govt approves all-women CISF battalion to keep vital installations safe

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Tuesday announced that it has approved a first-ever all-women CISF reserve battalion comprising more than 1,000 personnel, keeping in mind the burgeoning duties of the force at airports and similar installations of strategic and national importance.

The decision in this regard was taken by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, following the growing demand for women representation in security roles, especially at critical facilities like airports, metro stations, and national monuments, a senior official said.

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Women in force

The newly sanctioned all-women reserve battalion will have 1,025 personnel, all of whom will be selected from within the existing 2 lakh strong CISF workforce. The battalion will be led by an officer holding the rank of Senior Commandant, with the personnel expected to handle a variety of duties at sensitive installations.

whom will be selected from within the existing Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) workforce, which is approximately 2 lakh strong. The battalion will be led by an officer holding the rank of Senior Commandant, with the personnel expected to handle a variety of duties at sensitive installa-

tions across the country," a senior official said.

The CISF has 12 reserve battalions under its establishment at present. As the name suggests, these units are kept in reserve and used as reinforcement when the force is assigned a new job, such as temporary duties of conducting elections and permanent tasks of guarding the Parliament House complex that came under CISF cover earlier this year.

The force has a huge women interface at facilities such as the 68 civil airports, the Delhi Metro and historical monuments such as the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort, an MHA official said, adding that the force had projected a requirement for an all-women reserve battalion.