

Difference Between Paramilitary, Military and Central Armed Police Force

There is a common misconception that any armed uniform personnel is either part of the military, paramilitary, central armed police force or sometimes with either of the three services

All the three are different in every aspect save for the single goal of protecting India from an existential threat, external or otherwise.

Paramilitary Forces are auxiliary units that assist the defence forces and they include the Assam Rifles and Special Frontier Force (SFF)

The Military comes under the general term of “Defence Forces of India” which is mandated to protect the country from external forces. It includes the army, Navy and the Air Force.

The Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) is responsible for acting against any internal security threat. It includes forces such as the Central Industrial Security Force and ITPB (Indo-Tibetan Border Police)

ANALYZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MILITARY, PARAMILITARY AND CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCE

MILITARY	PARAMILITARY	CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCE
Indian Army	Assam Rifles	Indo-Tibetan Border Police
Indian Navy	Border Security Force	National Security Guard
Indian Air Force	Special Frontier Force	Sashastra Seema Bal
Ministry of Defence	Varied Reporting Authorities as per the Forces in Question	Ministry of Home affairs

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The differences between Paramilitary, Military and Central Armed Police Force are given in the table below:

Differences between Paramilitary, Military and Central Armed Police Force		
Paramilitary	Military	Central Armed Police Force
Protection of resources from internal threats like Left-Wing Extremism, Insurgents etc	protecting the external borders of the country from terrorism and aggression from other countries	These forces provide security to key economic installations from any existential threat they also function on the

		borders to check illegal border crossings, encroachments, smuggling
Varied. Dependent upon the forces in question. For example, Assam Rifles reports to the Ministry of Home Affairs while the Coast Guard reports to the Ministry of Defence	Ministry of Defence	Ministry of Home Affairs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assam Rifles • Indian Coast Guard • Special Frontier Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Army • Indian Air Force • Indian Navy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Reserve Police Force • Central Industrial Security Force • Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force
3 Star Officer of Equivalent Rank of Director General of Police	4 Star Officer of Equivalent Rank of General of Army	As it comes under the Home Ministry it is headed by an IPS (Indian Police Service) Officer A CAPF cadre can officially reach the post of Assistant Director-General of Police but the Director-General post is reserved for IPS
Some of the paramilitary wings such as the Assam Rifles originated in 1835 while the Coast Guard originated as	The Indian Military in its current form began from the native armies of the East India Company, which	The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is the largest industrial security force with over 165,000

lates as 1978	later became the British Indian Army and later was merged into the national army upon independence	personnel
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