



ANTI-DRONE UNIT – DEFENCE / INTERNAL SECURITY

NEWS: A comprehensive anti-drone unit to be established, involving **Defence Ministry, MHA, DRDO, and other agencies**. Deployment of **laser-equipped anti-drone systems** increased interception success from 3% to 55% in Punjab.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Rising Drone Threat

Significant increase in **drone interceptions in 2024 (260+ incidents) compared to 110 in 2023**.

Drones mainly **used for smuggling arms and drugs**, with hotspots in Punjab, and fewer incidents in Rajasthan and Jammu.

Why are Drones a Growing Menace?

Accessibility and Affordability: Drones are becoming increasingly accessible and affordable, making them attractive tools for non-state actors and criminal elements.

Versatility: Their versatility allows for diverse malicious uses, from smuggling contraband and weapons to conducting surveillance and even carrying out attacks.

Difficult to Detect and Intercept: Small drones are difficult to detect and intercept with traditional radar systems, posing a challenge for security agencies.

Establishment of a Comprehensive Anti-Drone Unit

- **Rising Challenges from Drone Technology:**

Amit Shah underscored the growing threat of drones to national security, predicting that this issue would become increasingly significant in the coming years. He highlighted that drones pose a multifaceted challenge, including risks related to surveillance, smuggling, and infiltration across international borders.

- **Development of Advanced Anti-Drone Systems:**

A laser-equipped anti-drone gun mount system has been developed as part of a collaborative effort involving multiple government agencies and stakeholders, including:

- Border Security Forces (BSF)
- Ministry of Defence
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Various research departments under the Government of India

This system represents a significant technological advancement aimed at countering drone intrusions effectively.



- **Improved Drone Interception Rates:**

Shah revealed that the implementation of this anti-drone system along the Punjab International Border has led to a remarkable improvement in interception rates. Previously, only 3% of drone intrusions could be neutralized, but with the system in place, the success rate has increased to 55%.

- **Future Plan for Anti-Drone Measures:**

The minister announced that within a few years, India would establish a comprehensive anti-drone unit. This unit will serve as a dedicated mechanism to protect the country against threats posed by drones.

Introduction of the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)

- **Objective of CIBMS:**

The Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) aims to enhance surveillance and monitoring of sensitive areas along India's international borders. It combines advanced technology and traditional security measures to ensure border safety.

- **Pilot Project in Dhubri, Assam:**

- Shah cited the initial implementation of CIBMS in Dhubri, Assam, as a pilot project.
- The results of this project have been described as "very encouraging," demonstrating the effectiveness of the system in addressing border security challenges.

- **Plans for Wider Deployment:**

Following refinements to the system based on pilot results, CIBMS will be rolled out across borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. This expansion will further fortify India's border security infrastructure.

Enhancement of Border Infrastructure

- **Strengthening Physical Barriers:**

Efforts have been made to improve border fencing to prevent unauthorized crossings and strengthen India's territorial integrity.

- **Development of Roads and Connectivity:**

Shah mentioned that constructing roads on the Indian side of the border has been prioritized. These roads are vital for improving connectivity, ensuring rapid deployment of security forces, and facilitating the movement of essential supplies.

- **Infrastructure Projects:**

Several additional infrastructure initiatives are underway to bolster border security and operational efficiency.

Growth and Importance of the Border Security Force (BSF)

- **Evolution of the BSF:**



- The Border Security Force (BSF), established in 1965, has grown significantly over the years.
- From its initial strength of 25 battalions, the BSF now comprises 193 battalions, reflecting its expanding responsibilities.
- With 2.7 lakh personnel, it stands as the world's largest border-guarding force.
- **BSF's Role in National Security:**
Shah highlighted the BSF's critical role as the nation's "first line of defence." The force has been instrumental in tackling various threats, including:
 - Counterfeit currency operations
 - Narcotics smuggling prevention
 - Curbing infiltration attempts
 - Addressing left-wing extremism

Sacrifices and Achievements of BSF Personnel

- **Recognition of Martyrs:**
 - The Home Minister paid tribute to the 1,992 BSF personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.
 - Their sacrifices underscore the BSF's unwavering commitment to protecting India's borders.
- **Honors and Awards:**
BSF personnel have been recognized with numerous accolades for their bravery and service, including:
 - 1 Maha Vir Chakra
 - 6 Kirti Chakras
 - 13 Vir Chakras
 - 13 Shaurya Chakras
 - 56 Sena Medals
 - 1,241 Police Medals

Welfare Initiatives for Security Forces

- **Introduction of Ayushman CAPF Scheme:**
 - Shah detailed the implementation of the Ayushman – Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) scheme.
 - Under this scheme, health cards have been issued to 41,21,443 personnel and their family members, ensuring access to quality healthcare services.
- **Hospital Network:**
Thousands of hospitals have been linked to the scheme, enabling personnel and their families to seek medical assistance easily and promptly.



- **Claims Processed:**

- The scheme has successfully processed claims worth ₹1,600 crore.
- It has provided coverage for 14.83 lakh medical cases, reflecting its impact on improving healthcare for security personnel.

- **Focus on Welfare:**

Shah emphasized the government's commitment to the welfare of security forces, stating that their well-being is a top priority under the Modi administration.

Government's Continued Support for Border Security

- **Modernization of Border Forces:**

The government has consistently worked to equip the BSF with modern tools, technologies, and infrastructure to address evolving security challenges effectively.

- **Comprehensive Approach to Security:**

Shah reiterated that the government's initiatives, such as the anti-drone unit, CIBMS, and welfare measures, are part of a broader strategy to ensure the safety and security of the nation.

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