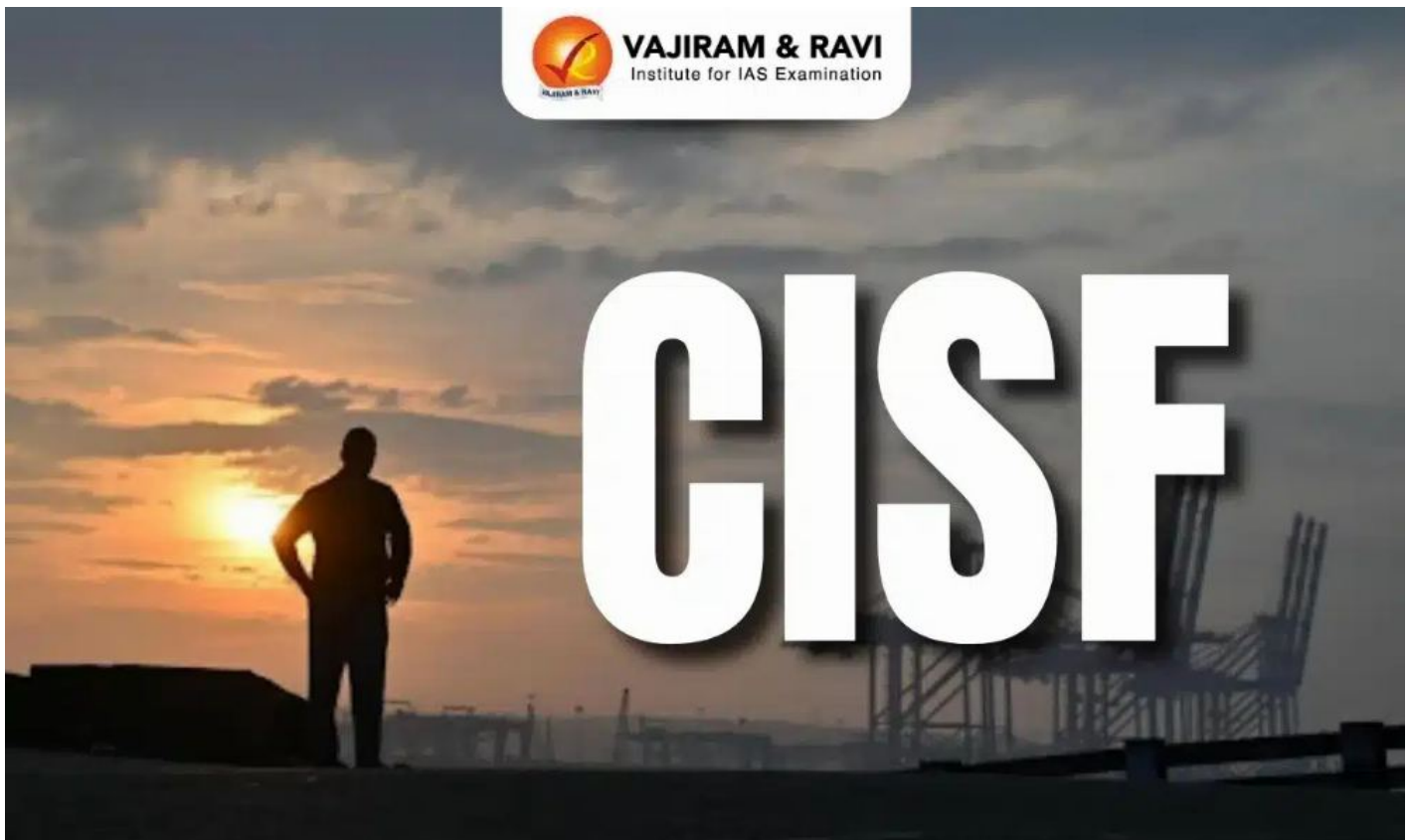


CISF to Oversee Security at 250 Indian Seaports Under New Unified Framework

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CISF Latest News

- The Union Government has appointed the CISF as the security regulator for more than 250 seaports to strengthen **coastal security**.
- The move aims to bring private cargo-handling ports under a single, sovereign security framework and ensure a uniform, standardised security architecture across India's maritime infrastructure.

Seaport Security in India: A Brief Overview

- Seaport security in India is a critical component of national security, economic stability, and international trade, particularly as the ports handle a vast majority of the country's international trade.

Key Framework and Organisation

- **International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code:** India's port security measures are largely compliant with the mandatory ISPS Code, a global framework established after 9/11 to safeguard ships and port facilities from terrorism and other threats.
- **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) – The New Regulator:** In a significant recent reform, the Government of India has designated the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as the Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for ports.

Challenges to Port Security

- The security environment in the maritime domain presents several ongoing challenges:
 - **Non-standardised Security:** Historically, security arrangements at many non-major ports lacked uniformity and expert oversight, which the new CISF mandate aims to address.
 - **Transnational Threats:** Ports remain vulnerable to non-traditional threats, including:
 - Maritime Terrorism
 - Smuggling and Drug Trafficking (Ports are often routes for large hauls of narcotics).
 - Cyberattacks on port IT infrastructure and systems.
 - **Infrastructure Gaps:** Ensuring uniform, high-quality infrastructure and sufficient skilled manpower across over 250 ports remains an operational challenge.

Centre Brings All Seaports Under Uniform Security Oversight

- To strengthen coastal security, the Union Government has appointed the CISF as the central security regulator for more than 250 seaports, including private cargo-handling ports. This brings all ports under a unified security architecture.
- In the first phase, 80 **export-import (EXIM) ports** will be placed under CISF control for access management, cargo screening, and waterfront patrolling.
- CISF will function as a “sovereign security force” at these sites.

CISF to Conduct New Security Assessments

- For all EXIM ports CISF will carry out:
 - Port Facility Security Assessments (PFSA)
 - Port Facility Security Plans (PFSP)
- This will ensure compliance with global standards and eliminate vulnerabilities.

Hybrid Security Model for Port Operations

- A new multi-layered model has been proposed:
 - **CISF** → core security roles (access control, patrolling, screening)
 - **State Police / SISF / Private Security** → non-core duties (traffic, gate operations)
- This ensures uniformity while optimising manpower across port ecosystems.

Mandatory CISF-Led Training for Private Port Security

- A structured training programme—modeled on aviation security—will be implemented.
- CISF will train and certify all private security staff deployed at EXIM ports.
- The government plans to create a specialised **Port Security Training Institute** to build long-term capacity, standardise certifications, and professionalise the port security workforce.

Why the Change Matters

- India has over **250 seaports**, including 80 EXIM ports that handle international trade through customs clearance, cargo movement, storage and logistics.
- Until now, security across non-major ports was fragmented and inconsistent.
- Many ports currently rely on private security agencies or local police, resulting in uneven security standards.
 - CISF already secures the 13 major ports across multiple coastal states.
- By expanding CISF's mandate to regulation, assessment, planning and training, India aims to build **secure, efficient and globally compliant EXIM gateways**, boosting economic competitiveness and supporting its growing maritime footprint.

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