

# CAPF Bill Controversy: Key Issues in CAPF Bill and IPS Deputation Debate

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## CAPF Bill Controversy Latest News

- The **Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026**, introduced in the Rajya Sabha, proposes reserving senior leadership positions in CAPFs largely for IPS officers on deputation.
- It mandates:
  - 50% of Inspector General (IG) posts
  - At least 67% of Additional Director General (ADG) posts
  - 100% of Special DG and DG posts
    - to be filled by IPS officers.
- The proposal has drawn criticism from the Opposition and retired CAPF officials, who argue it may limit career progression opportunities for cadre officers within CAPFs.

## Background: Supreme Court Judgment and Government's Response

- The Bill was introduced following a Supreme Court judgment (May 2025) which directed that deputation of IPS officers to senior posts in CAPFs should be gradually reduced within two years.
- The Court also recognised CAPF Group A officers as Organised Group A Services (OGAS), similar to IAS, IPS, and IFS.

## **Government's Response and Legal Developments**

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) filed a review petition against the judgment, but it was dismissed in October 2025.
- Despite this, the MHA continued appointing IPS officers to key positions in CAPFs, leading to allegations of non-compliance.
- Retired CAPF officers filed a contempt petition against the Union Home Secretary for not implementing the Court's order.
- In response, the government proposed a legal solution, leading to Cabinet approval of the CAPF (General Administration) Bill, 2026 to address the issue through legislation.

## **About CAPFs**

- The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) include seven forces:
  - Assam Rifles (guards Indo-Myanmar and counter insurgency operations in NE)
  - the BSF (guards Pakistan and Bangladesh borders),
  - CISF (protects airports and critical infrastructure),
  - CRPF (handles internal security and law and order),
  - SSB (guards Nepal and Bhutan borders), and
  - ITBP (secures the China border).
  - National Security Guard (an elite counter-terrorism unit)
- Currently, IPS officers occupy key leadership roles in CAPFs, with 20% of Deputy Inspector General posts and 50% of Inspector General posts reserved for them through executive orders.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) controls both CAPFs and IPS cadres.

## **Personnel and Recruitment**

- CAPFs have around 13,000 Group A officers and nearly 10 lakh personnel in total.
- Recruitment is conducted through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), ensuring a structured entry into these forces.

## **Current IPS Deployment**

- As of March 9, 2026, there are 213 sanctioned IPS posts in CAPFs, with 35 vacancies.
- Across India, there are about 4,594 IPS officers, with 40% of senior posts earmarked for Central deputation and 60% for state roles.

## **Why is there opposition to the Bill**

- Retired CAPF officials oppose the Bill, arguing it undermines the Supreme Court's ruling.
- They highlight **career stagnation**, noting that CAPF officers face slow promotions compared to IPS officers, who advance much faster.
- They also object to reserving 100% of Special Director General posts for IPS officers, limiting career growth for CAPF personnel.

## Government's Justification

- The government maintains that CAPFs handle critical national security functions requiring coordination with states.
- It argues that IPS officers are essential for effective functioning and for maintaining strong Centre-State relations.

## Concerns Raised by Opposition Leaders

- Opposition leaders have criticised the Bill as an overreach.
- They said it undermines judicial authority and pointed to low morale in CAPFs due to poor promotions.
- They argued Parliament cannot override court rulings without proper legal basis.

## Other Concerns

- **Lack of Domain Expertise** – Critics argue that IPS officers deputed at senior levels often lack ground-level experience in CAPFs, affecting decision-making and operational effectiveness.
- **Need for Institutional Continuity** – CAPFs handle complex roles like border security, counter-insurgency, and disaster response, which require long-term experience and continuity of leadership—something cadre officers are better positioned to provide.
- **Institutional Autonomy vs Bureaucratic Control** – The Bill is seen as reinforcing bureaucratic control rather than promoting professional autonomy. Experts argue that modern security forces require specialised leadership, not external administrative dominance.
- **Equality and Fair Opportunity** – Permanent exclusion of CAPF officers from top leadership raises concerns under Articles 14 and 16 (equality and equal opportunity).
- **National Security vs Service Interests** – Critics argue the Bill prioritises IPS career progression over strengthening CAPFs. The focus on coordination and administrative control may not stand legal scrutiny, as courts have already examined these arguments.

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