

CISF to overhaul its administrative structure

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is all set to overhaul its administrative and operational structure to strengthen specialised security management across critical infrastructure and strategic establishments under its protection.

The revised arrangements, approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), will come into effect on November 1, the force said in a statement.

The reorganisation aims to align the force's supervisory structure more closely with the specific security requirements of different sectors, including power, coal, steel, petroleum and natural gas, ports, government buildings, museums, monuments and mass rapid transit systems.

The objective is to improve operational oversight, promote sector-specific expertise, ensure greater uniformity in security practices and strengthen coordination with the Ministries, De-

partments and installation managements.

The CISF provides security to a wide range of establishments, including airports, seaports, atomic energy and space installations, power plants, power grids, steel plants, coal mines, petroleum and natural gas facilities, currency note presses, government buildings, iconic monuments, and mass transit systems.

Each sector has distinct operational processes, infrastructure, potential hazards, and security vulnerabilities.

Supervisory structure

Under the earlier arrangement, administrative and operational supervision was largely organised along geographical lines. Over the past 25 years, the CISF has progressively adopted a functional approach in selected sectors, including aviation and strategic establishments under the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Space.

After the review of its supervisory structure, the



The revamp aims to align the force's supervisory structure with specific security requirements of different sectors. FILE PHOTO

National Capital Region Sector has been reorganised into the Government Building Museums & Monuments and Mass Rapid Transit System (GBMM & MRTS) Sector, New Delhi. The North Sector (New Delhi) and North Eastern Sector-II (Kolkata) have been restructured as the Power-I and Power-II Sectors, respectively.

The Eastern Sector (Ranchi) has been transitioned into the Coal Sector, while the Central Sector (Bhilai) is now the dedicated Steel Sector. The North Eastern Sector (Guwahati)

has been transformed into the Petroleum & Natural Gas Sector.

To strengthen security management at maritime trade infrastructure, the Western Sector (Mumbai) and the Southern Sector (Chennai) have been transformed into the West Coast Port Sector and the East Coast Port Sector, respectively.

The Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Space Sector, Bengaluru, Airport Sector-I, New Delhi, and Airport Sector-II, Bengaluru, will continue under their

respective functional arrangements.

The reorganisation assumes significance as the CISF's mandate expands beyond conventional industrial security to encompass new and specialised security responsibilities. The force has been designated as a Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for port facilities under the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. The functional realignment of port-sector supervision is expected to support the development of specialised port-security expertise and coordination with port authorities and other stakeholders.

The CISF has also been entrusted with security responsibilities at high-security correctional facilities in Jammu and Kashmir and designated as the nodal agency for aerial security of critical infrastructure. These responsibilities require specialised training, clear operational accountability and a coordinated approach to emerging security challenges.

Kuki organisation announces 'total shutdown' of highway in Manipur after attacks

Rahul Karmakar

GUWAHATI

A Kuki organisation on Sunday announced a "total shutdown" of National Highway 202 for four days to protest the continuing violence and the "absence of a credible security arrangement".

The Working Committee of Kuki Civil Society Organisations (WCKCSO) called the shutdown from October 18 to 22, following a series of attacks on villages in Manipur's Kamjong district.

At least one person, a Kuki villager, and several were injured and at least 15 houses were torched in at-

tacks that continued till Saturday night.

The WCKCSO accused Naga extremists of attacking Chassad and other Kuki villages near the Myanmar border. Naga organisations, on the other hand, accused Kuki armed groups of attacking Naga villages.

SP transferred

Meanwhile, the Manipur government replaced Tholu Rocky with Jay Barange as the Superintendent of Police of Kamjong district.

The Manipur Naga Youth Organisation condemned the State authorities for transferring Mr. Rocky, allegedly at the in-

sistence of Kuki MLA Kimneo Hangsing. The organisation alleged that Ms. Hangsing urged Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh to transfer Mr. Rocky as he was a Naga, while "turning a blind eye" to Kuki police personnel allegedly involved in the May 13 Konsakhul (Kangpokpi district) kidnapping and killings.

"The Nagas have long endured the State administration's law and order failure in the hope of an early return of peace and normalcy, but the present government appears (to be) appeasing only the troublemakers," the organisation said.

Oil firms bar ethanol from sugar for blending in fuel

The move, for the 2026-27 supply year, comes amid concerns over domestic sugar availability and rising prices after poor rainfall in key sugar-producing States such as Maharashtra and Karnataka

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

State-run oil marketing companies have barred ethanol made from sugar cane juice, sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses from their latest procurement tender for the 2026-27 supply year for blending in petrol, as the government seeks to protect domestic sugar supplies while sustaining its nationwide petrol-blending programme.

The tender, issued on October 16 by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) on behalf of oil marketing companies (OMCs), seeks bids for around 11 billion litres of ethanol for the supply year beginning in November to meet the requirement of doping 20% ethanol in petrol. It cuts the incentive for maize-based ethanol, lowering the procurement price to ₹68.86 a litre from ₹71.86.

"The Government of India has issued directions that sugar diversion for ethanol be reduced to zero for the ethanol supply year 2026-27," the tender document said. "No offers have



The government has issued directions that sugar diversion for ethanol be reduced to zero for year 2026-27. GETTY IMAGES

been sought for ethanol produced from sugar cane juice, sugar or sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses in this quantity bid tender," it added.

The restrictions mark a shift in feedstock sourcing for the ethanol-blended petrol programme, which has relied on both grain-based and sugar cane-based ethanol to reduce crude oil imports and cut vehicle emissions.

The tender allows bids for ethanol produced from maize, broken rice, surplus rice procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), and C-heavy molasses, according to the docu-

ment. The reduction in the maize incentive to ₹2.79 per litre from ₹5.79 is expected to lower returns for producers supplying ethanol from the grain, even as the exclusion of sugar-based feedstocks increases the importance of alternative raw materials.

The move comes amid concerns over domestic sugar availability and rising prices after poor rainfall in key sugar-producing States, including Maharashtra and Karnataka, raised the risk of lower output. India, the world's largest sugar consumer, has increasingly used ethanol blending to reduce its de-

pendence on imported crude oil. However, diverting sugar cane and sugar for fuel production can compete with supplies available for food consumption, particularly when output is constrained.

The latest tender stresses the government's effort to balance its energy-security objectives with the need to maintain adequate sugar supplies and contain domestic prices. India has adopted petrol containing up to 20% ethanol, known as E20, as the nationwide standard as part of efforts to reduce oil import dependence and emissions.

Ethanol is produced from agricultural feedstocks, including sugarcane and grains, and blended with petrol to displace a portion of fossil fuel consumption.

The shift away from sugar-based ethanol in the 2026-27 procurement cycle is likely to increase the importance of grain-based production and make feedstock availability, procurement prices and distillery capacity key factors in meeting blending requirements.

French police arrest 1,800 after violent clashes, looting mar protests

Authorities say masked groups set fires and attacked public buildings in several regions; flames engulf the 19th-century City Hall in Limoges, 'causing its roof to collapse'; U.S. President says that 'France is burning!', linking the unrest to immigration

Associated Press

PARIS

The police arrested at least 1,800 people across France after violent groups clashed with officers and looted shops during nationwide demonstrations that drew hundreds of thousands who denounced rising living costs and poor conditions in schools.

Authorities said masked groups on Saturday set fires and attacked public buildings, including city halls, in several cities.

In Limoges, a city in central France, flames engulfed the 19th-century City Hall, causing its roof to



Police officers charge at rioters on Place de la Republique during a protest against the 'high cost of living' in Paris on Saturday. AFP

collapse. Haute-Vienne prefect Maurice Barate told *LCI* television that the fire was deliberately set and the blaze nearly destroyed the building.

French President Emmanuel Macron, after an emergency meeting with top government officials on Sunday afternoon, said "nothing justifies" the "un-

bridled" violence seen in nationwide cost of living protests this weekend.

"Tonight, we all feel anger and shame," Mr. Macron said in an address to the nation, adding that there must be a distinction between protesters with "legitimate demands" with "those who destroyed, smashed, and looted".

"The right to protest is a fundamental right. Deliberately and collectively sowing disorder through violence is not," Interior Minister Laurent Nunez wrote on X, pointing to the looting of hundreds of businesses in cities such as Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Bordeaux.

About 5,50,000 people took part in protests across France, according to authorities, while organisers counted about 8,00,000. More than 500 police officers, gendarmes, and firefighters were injured, Mr. Nunez said. One person died of a heart attack, the Paris police said.

Far-right leader and presidential hopeful Marine Le Pen lashed out at far-left rival Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who joined the march.

U.S. President Donald Trump posted "France is burning!" on his Truth Social platform, linking the unrest to "the immigration of people from an entirely different world".

'Drove away Chinese vessels involved in maritime harassment'

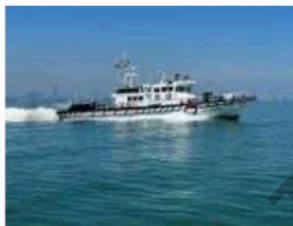
Agence France-Presse

TAIPEI

Taiwan said on Sunday it had driven away 16 Chinese coast guard, research and fishing vessels involved in simultaneous "maritime harassment" operations.

An "unusually large" number of Chinese vessels took part in the coordinated operations around Taiwan's main island and Pratas, a disputed island to the southwest, the Taiwanese coast guard said in a statement.

The locations were off Taiwan's eastern, southern



A Taiwan Coast Guard ship patrols around Taiwan's Kinmen islands. REUTERS

and southwestern coastlines, and around Pratas. Some of the Chinese vessels entered Taiwan's restricted waters.

Taiwan controls Pratas, but Beijing also claims the island along with most of the strategic waterway.

Fire at St. Petersburg oil refineries after Kyiv launches drones

Associated Press

KYIV

Ukrainian attacks set an oil export terminal ablaze in St. Petersburg on Sunday, as Kyiv launched more than 1,000 drones across Russia in one of its largest ever aerial bombardments.

One person was killed and five more were wounded in the attack, which sparked fires at both the Petersburg Oil Terminal and the city's Ruchi oil depot, said local governor Alexander Beglov.

Russia's Ministry of Defence said on Sunday that its forces had destroyed

1,015 Ukrainian drones over 15 Russian regions, as well as the annexed Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea and the Black Sea.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told Russian state news agency *Tass* that Kyiv was "resisting" Moscow's invasion, but that Ukraine could not "change the current course of events".

Meanwhile, a woman died and at least two other people were wounded, including a 6-year-old girl, after Russia launched two attacks on the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, officials said.

MACRON VOWS TO HOLD ACCOUNTABLE THOSE WHO 'SOUGHT TO BRING DOWN THE REPUBLIC'

Cost of living anger spills on to streets of France; looting, arson mark unrest

Limoges town hall set on fire, 600 cops injured, over 2,000 held

Reuters

Paris, October 18

FRESH CLASHES broke out in Paris on Sunday, a day after France suffered one of its worst bouts of unrest in years, with protests over rising living costs leaving one demonstrator dead, thousands arrested and shops looted or damaged.

Addressing the nation on Sunday evening, President Emmanuel Macron acknowledged the public's "anger" and "shame" over protests against rising living costs and poor conditions in schools. He said those who looted would have to pay for the damage and that those who "sought to bring down the Republic" would be held accountable.

Macron denounced "unrestrained violence" by what he called "insurrectionist elements from radical far-left groups, joined by numerous criminals".

Nationwide demonstrations erupted into riots on Saturday, when a town hall was torched, shops were ransacked and buildings covered in graffiti as violent groups clashed with police in cities across France. Police fired tear gas at protesters at Place de la Republique once more on Sunday afternoon, while bicycles were set on fire in Paris.

More than half a million people joined marches in scores of cities on Saturday,

bringing together a month-long student movement and discontent over rising prices and declining public services.

One protester died after suffering a cardiac arrest during demonstrations in Paris. Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said police had made more than 2,000 arrests across France and that more than 600 officers were injured. Hundreds of shops were damaged, he said.

In Limoges, the city's 143-year-old town hall was set ablaze and largely destroyed in an arson attack on Saturday. Mayor Guillaume Guerin condemned the chaos, comparing the fire to the 2019 blaze that devastated Paris's Notre-Dame Cathedral.

He told Reuters there was a clear, premeditated intention to burn down the building and that people inside feared for their lives. Guerin threatened to resign if the city did not receive the funds needed to repair it. The government blamed the violence on hard-left and ultra-left groups, along with criminals it said had instigated looting.

Far-right leader Jordan Bardella said France had been "humiliated" and called on Macron to step down. Bardella blamed "decades of laxity" and a loss of authority, as well as the "moral, psychological, and material disarmament" of internal security forces. Although hundreds of thousands protested peacefully, violent fringe groups targeted public buildings, looted luxury boutiques and supermarkets, and attacked police.

The address came as Macron, who is due to leave office in 2027, faces social discontent, a weak economy and ballooning debt.



A car burns at Republique square during a protest against rising living costs, joining students' grievances, in Paris, on Saturday. AP

Student movement grips entire country

Lynsey Chutel, Zane Irwin & Catherine Porter

October 18

PROTESTS THAT began last month over deteriorating conditions in French high schools have spread into a broader movement against rising living and fuel costs, drawing students and other discontented citizens.

Students have cited crumbling infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms, overloaded schedules, shortages of teachers and staff, and underfunded schools. Some also want the abolition of state-run univer-

sity admissions platforms.

France faces a belt-tightening budget and approaches presidential elections next year. Rising fuel costs, partly driven by the Iran war, have drawn people beyond schools.

Social media accounts associated with the "yellow vest" movement, known for protests against fuel prices, called for demonstrations.

Unions and left-wing parties have joined the expression of discontent as Macron nears end of his presidency.

What began as largely peace-

ful rallies has increasingly turned violent. Demonstrations took place in roughly 110 locations, including Paris, Lyon, Nantes and Rennes. Rioters clashed with police, attacked infrastructure and set fires.

In early October, Education Minister Edouard Geffray told France 2 at least 24 schools had been ransacked or set on fire.

Hundreds have been injured and thousands arrested, most of them minors, according to law enforcement officials.

The government has condemned the violence while ac-

knowledging some student grievances. It scrapped plans to raise certain higher education registration fees under the 2027 budget, promised 3,000 substitute teachers for high schools with the worst shortages, and pledged to involve students more in school decisions.

Nearly 100,000 students had responded to an anonymous national survey, Geffray said.

Police tactics have also intensified criticism. Rights groups, including Amnesty International, have condemned the use of tear gas and stun grenades against minors. NYT