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# **TODAY'S ANALYSIS**

## **(18 March 2025)**

### **TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

- **RELOCATION OF ASSAM RIFLES FROM AIZAWL**
- **PM YUVA 3.0**
- **FOREX RESERVES OF INDIA**
- **MCQs**



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## RELOCATION OF ASSAM RIFLES FROM AIZAWL



- On March 15, 2025, Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended the ceremony where land was officially transferred from the Assam Rifles to the Mizoram government.
- This marked the relocation of Assam Rifles' camp from the center of Aizawl to Zokhaw Song, fulfilling a demand that had been ongoing for over 35 years.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT

- **Speech by Amit Shah:**
  - Union Home minister said that this **decision is important for the development of Aizawl.**

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- The Assam Rifles camp in the heart of the city had been a barrier to the city's growth and expansion.
- He explained that for 35 years, there was a demand to move the camp because of the tough landscape and lack of space, which made it hard to build more in the city.
- The shift to Zokhawsang shows the government's commitment to the people of Mizoram and their desire to improve the city's development.
- He stressed that this move is not just about shifting the camp, but about supporting the growth of Aizawl, helping with infrastructure development, and addressing the needs of the people.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- The demand for moving the Assam Rifles camp has been **raised since the late 1980s**.
- The Assam Rifles, India's oldest paramilitary force, was stationed in the center of Aizawl, **making it hard for the city to expand** due to the surrounding mountainous terrain and crowded city areas.

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- Over the years, local leaders and civil society groups have been pushing for the camp's relocation so that Aizawl could grow and modernize more easily.

## ABOUT ASSAM RIFLES

- **Role and Function:**

- **Assam Rifles is one of the 6 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Primarily tasked with conducting counterinsurgency operations in **northeastern** India.
- Operationally under the control of the Indian Army, commanded by an officer of Lieutenant General rank.
- Its headquarters is in **Shillong**, unlike other CAPFs that are based in New Delhi.

## HISTORY

- Founded in 1835 as the **Cachar Levy**, originally to protect British tea estates from tribal raids.
- Evolved into the **Frontier Force** across the Assam border.
- In 1870, reorganized into 3 Assam Military Police Battalions.
- Renamed as Assam Rifles in 1917. **ADDRESS:**



- Post-Independence, it participated in the Sino-India War (1962) and the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka (1987).
- Expanded significantly from 17 battalions in 1960 to 46 battalions today, playing an essential role in counterinsurgency and peacekeeping operations in Northeast India.

## ABOUT CAPF

The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) are a group of seven security forces that function **under the Ministry of Home Affairs**, tasked with national security, border protection, and law enforcement duties.

**Retirement Age:** The Union Home Ministry has set the **retirement age** for CAPF personnel at **60 years**

## THE CAPFs IN INDIA

Force	Year of Establishment	Main Role/Function	Key Contributions
Assam Rifles (AR)	1835	Protecting the North-Eastern borders, counterinsurgency operations	Sino-India War (1962), IPKF in Sri Lanka (1987), Peacekeeping
Border Security Force (BSF)	1965	Border guarding with Pakistan and Bangladesh	World's largest border guarding force, First Line of Defence
Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)	1969	Securing critical infrastructure and PSUs	Nuclear plants, airports, disaster management

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Force	Year of Establishment	Main Role/Function	Key Contributions
Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)	1939	Maintaining internal security, riot control, insurgency operations	UN peacekeeping, disaster relief
Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)	1962	Guarding Indo-China border, mountain warfare	Specialized in high-altitude operations and disaster rescue
National Security Guard (NSG)	1986 (Established as NSG)	Counter-terrorism and specialized rescue operations	Terrorism response, quick strike teams
Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	1963	Border protection, counter-insurgency in the East	Prevention of trans-border crimes, illegal immigration

## CONCLUSION

The relocation of Assam Rifles from Aizawl's urban core to Zokhaw Song is a landmark development that will significantly enhance the city's urban planning and infrastructure growth. It reflects the Government of India's commitment to addressing the needs of Mizoram's people while maintaining the operational efficiency of the Assam Rifles. This move, coupled with the expanded role of CAPFs, showcases India's focus on security and development.

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## PM YUVA 3.0

- **Date Announced:** March 11, 2025
- **Scheme Name:** PM-YUVA 3.0 (Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors)
- **Launched By:** Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education
- The Ministry of Education has launched **PM-YUVA 3.0**, a scheme aimed at mentoring young and emerging authors in India.
- This initiative focuses on **training authors under the age of 30** to encourage a culture of reading, writing, and book creation in the country.

# PM-YUVA 3.0

Prime Minister's Mentorship Scheme for Young Authors

- 50 authors of up to 30 years of age to be selected
- Scholarship of **Rs. 50,000 per month for 6 months**
- Entries can be submitted in 22 official Indian languages and English

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## KEY FEATURES

- **Goal of the Scheme:**

- The main aim of the scheme is to **support young writers** and help them develop their writing skills, allowing them to contribute to the literary world and promote India's culture and knowledge system.
- This is the third edition of the **PM-YUVA Scheme**, following the success of the first two editions, which saw large participation from young authors across 22 languages, including English.

- **Selection Process:**

- **Contest:** Young authors can apply by submitting their proposals for books on specific themes. An **All India Contest** will be held on the website mygov.in, where interested candidates can submit their proposals until **April 10, 2025**.
- **Evaluation:** Proposals will be reviewed in **April 2025**, and the selected authors will be announced in **May-June 2025**.
- **Training:** The chosen authors will receive mentorship from experienced writers and mentors between **June 30, 2025**, and **December 30, 2025**.

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- **Themes of Focus:** The PM-YUVA 3.0 scheme will encourage young writers to explore the following themes in their books:
  - **Contribution of the Indian Diaspora in Nation Building:** Writing about how people of Indian origin have contributed to the progress and development of the country.
  - **Indian Knowledge System:** Highlighting the rich history of India's educational and philosophical traditions.
  - **Makers of Modern India (1950-2025):** Writing about the key figures and events that have shaped India in the modern era.
- **Implementation and Support:**
  - The **National Book Trust, India (NBT)** will act as the **Implementing Agency** for this scheme, ensuring its smooth execution through structured mentorship phases.
  - The scheme is designed to strengthen India's cultural ties and promote the idea of '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**' (One India, Great India) by encouraging literary diversity and fostering deeper connections among.

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- **Benefits for Young Authors:**

- The scheme will help develop a new generation of writers who can express fresh perspectives on important subjects related to Indian culture, history, and knowledge.
- The authors will be given opportunities to participate in **literary festivals** and engage with established writers and intellectuals.
- The books produced under the scheme will be **published by the National Book Trust, India** and translated into other Indian languages, promoting cultural and literary exchange across the country.

## IMPACT & VISION OF THE SCHEME

The scheme aims to:

- Cultivate a **new generation of writers** who can write about important topics like the role of the **Indian diaspora**, the **Indian Knowledge System**, and the leaders who have helped shape modern India.
- Encourage young authors to produce creative and innovative works that promote India's heritage and contemporary progress.

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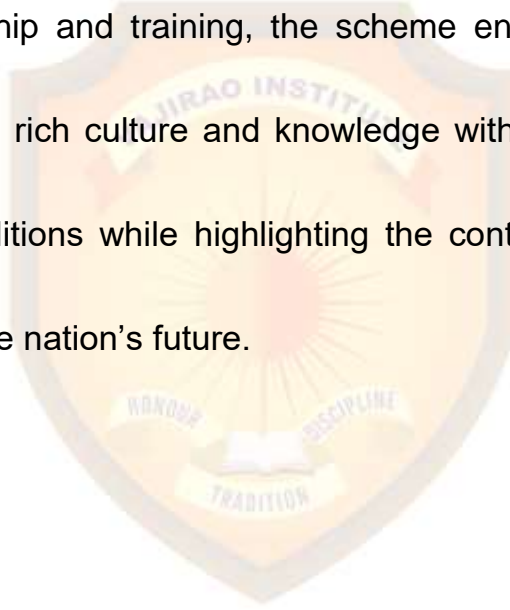


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- Help preserve and share India's traditional knowledge and wisdom with the younger generation while offering new opportunities for national growth.

## CONCLUSION

The launch of **PM-YUVA 3.0** is a significant step in nurturing young talent in India's literary world. By providing mentorship and training, the scheme encourages the development of writers who will share India's rich culture and knowledge with the world. This initiative also aims to preserve India's traditions while highlighting the contributions of modern-day India and its diaspora in shaping the nation's future.



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# FOREX RESERVES OF INDIA

## Context :

- **Date:** Week ended March 7, 2025
- **Key Update:** India's foreign exchange reserves **increase by \$15.267 billion** to **\$653.966 billion**.
- India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves saw the sharpest rise in over two years, jumping by **\$15.267 billion**, reaching a total of **\$653.966 billion** during the week ending **March 7, 2025**, according to data released by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

## Key Highlights:

- **Reason for the Sharp Increase:** The sharp rise in forex reserves is mainly due to the **\$10 billion forex swap** conducted by the **RBI** on **February 28, 2025**.
- In this swap, the RBI bought dollars against the rupee to provide additional liquidity to the financial system.

## COMPONENTS OF FOREX RESERVES

- **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)**

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- **Change:** +\$13.993 billion
- **Total Amount:** \$557.282 billion
- **Explanation:**
  - FCA makes up the **largest portion of India's forex reserves** and is expressed in terms of US dollars.
  - These assets include foreign currencies like the **euro, pound, yen, etc.**
  - The increase of \$13.993 billion reflects both the accumulation of foreign currency and the impact of exchange rate fluctuations, such as the appreciation or depreciation of the currencies held in the reserves relative to the US dollar.
- **Gold Reserves**
  - **Change:** -\$1.053 billion
  - **Total Amount:** \$74.325 billion
  - **Explanation:**
    - The value of **India's gold** reserves fell by \$1.053 billion.
    - This decline can be **attributed to fluctuations in the price of gold** in the global market, where gold is traded in US dollars.

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- The overall value of India's gold reserves stands at \$74.325 billion, reflecting the amount of gold held by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)**

- **Change:** +\$0.212 billion

- **Total Amount:** \$18.21 billion

- **Explanation:**

- SDRs are international reserve assets **created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** to supplement member countries' official reserves.
- India's SDRs increased by \$212 million to a total of \$18.21 billion.
- The increase reflects India's share of IMF's allocation of SDRs to member countries, which can be used for transactions with other countries or the IMF.

- **IMF Reserve Position**

- **Change:** -\$0.069 billion

- **Total Amount:** \$4.148 billion

- **Explanation:**

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- India's reserve position with the IMF decreased by \$69 million, bringing it to \$4.148 billion.
- This reserve position represents India's quota and the balance available in the IMF's financial resources that India can access as part of its membership.

## TREND IN FOREX RESERVES

- The **forex reserves** had been on a **declining trend** recently due to revaluation and the RBI's interventions in the forex market to stabilize the **rupee** and manage volatility.
- At the end of **September 2024**, India's forex reserves had hit an **all-time high** of **\$704.885 billion** before starting to decline.

### Implications and Significance:

- The increase in foreign exchange reserves will provide India with a stronger buffer to withstand external economic shocks, such as currency fluctuations or global financial uncertainties.
- The **\$10 billion forex swap** was a key strategy used by the RBI to inject liquidity into the system, helping manage the domestic economy and supporting the rupee.

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## CONCLUSION

India's foreign exchange reserves saw a sharp increase in the week ending **March 7, 2025**, driven mainly by the RBI's \$10 billion forex swap. This rise strengthens India's financial position and helps ensure stability in the face of global economic challenges. While there was a decrease in gold reserves, other components, especially foreign currency assets, saw significant growth.



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## MCQs

1. Consider the following statements wrt Assam Rifles and mark the correct one:

1. Assam Rifles is the oldest CAPF in India.
2. Assam Rifles was headquartered in Aizawl.

- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 & 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2



**Ans. (A)**

2. Which of these forces is not under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs?

- (A) CRPF  
(B) BSF  
(C) CISF  
(D) Indian Coast Guard

**Ans. (D)**

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3. The books produced under the Yuva 3.0 scheme will be published by?

- (A) Press Trust of India
- (B) Press Information Bureau
- (C) National Book Trust
- (D) None of the above

**Ans. (C)**

4. Consider the following features of PM YUVA and mark the correct one:

1. It aims to encourage a culture of reading, writing, and book creation in the country.
  2. People under the age of 30 years are targeted.
- (A) Only 1
  - (B) Only 2
  - (C) Both 1 & 2
  - (D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. (C)**

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5. Which of the following components of Forex Reserves is the highest?
- (A) SDR
  - (B) Gold
  - (C) IMF Reserve Position
  - (D) None of the above

**Ans. (B)**



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