

# ASSAM RIFLES

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## **Context:**

The Assam Rifles successfully intercepted a substantial cache of arms, ammunition, and other war-like supplies near the Indo-Myanmar border in Mon district, Nagaland.

## **Background:**

This significant recovery of heavy-caliber, military-grade weapons close to the border area is a commendable achievement for the ongoing border sealing operation by the Assam Rifles.

## **About ASSAM RIFLES :**

The Assam Rifles, also known as the Sentinels of North East, is the oldest paramilitary force in India.

## **Formation and Evolution:**

1. The Assam Rifles traces its lineage back to the Cachar Levy, which was formed in 1835 during British rule. Over time, it underwent several name changes, including the Assam Frontier Police, Assam Military Police, and Eastern Bengal and Assam Military Police, before officially becoming the Assam Rifles in 1917.
2. It served in both World Wars and has a rich historical legacy.

## **Role and Responsibilities:**

1. Counter-Insurgency Force: The Assam Rifles plays a crucial role in counter-insurgency operations in the challenging terrain of the Northeastern states.
2. Law and Order: It assists in maintaining law and order in the region, working alongside the Indian Army.
3. Indo-Myanmar Border Security: The force guards the Indo-Myanmar border, ensuring security and preventing illegal activities.
4. Sentinels of the Northeast: The Assam Rifles is aptly called the "Friends of the Hill People" due to its close interaction with the local communities.

## **Dual Control Structure:**

1. The Assam Rifles is unique in having a dual control structure:
2. Administrative Control: Lies with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
3. Operational Control: Rests with the Indian Army, which falls under the Ministry of Defence.
4. This dual control arrangement ensures effective coordination and synergy between civil administration and military operations.