Amit Shah opens NDRF 12th Battalion campus near Itanagar

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News

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the campus of the 12th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at Hollongi, near Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh, on 22 November 2026. All its buildings follow earthquake-resistant standards, and it has an Olympic-size swimming pool and a deep diving tank for training. The pool will be open free of charge to swimmers from Itanagar and across Arunachal Pradesh, a step Shah praised. The campus will also train the State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs) of all eight north-eastern States. He said the NDRF has carried out more than 11,000 operations and saved over 1.61 lakh lives, and has served abroad in Japan, Nepal, Türkiye and Sri Lanka; 2026 has been declared the NDRF's 'Year of Capacity Building'. He suggested a Miyawaki forest on the campus, and a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) response drill was demonstrated. Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Deputy CM Chowna Mein and NDRF Director General Piyush Anand attended. Northeast Now had reported that CM Pema Khandu laid the campus's foundation stone on 29 December 2018, with then Union MoS (Home) Kiren Rijiju present; landowners of Hollongi had donated the land. The NDRF is now deployed at more than 70 locations.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	Inauguration of NDRF 12th Battalion campus

Point	Details
Date	22 November 2026
Place	Hollongi, near Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
Inaugurated by	Union Home Minister Amit Shah
Features	Quake-resistant buildings; Olympic-size pool; diving tank
Training	SDRFs of 8 north-eastern States
NDRF record (Shah)	11,000+ operations; 1.61 lakh+ lives saved
NDRF strength	16 battalions; 1,149 personnel each
2026	NDRF 'Year of Capacity Building'

Background

- NDRF: provided for by the Disaster Management Act (26 December 2005), it began in 2006 with 8 battalions and has grown to 16. Personnel are drawn from the BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles. Each battalion has 18 search-and-rescue teams of 47 members.
- Arunachal Pradesh lies in a very high seismic-risk zone and also sees frequent landslides, flash floods and forest fires. Hollongi is also where the Prime Minister opened the State's first greenfield airport, Donyi Polo Airport, in November 2022; the name reflects the people's reverence for the Sun (Donyi) and the Moon (Polo).
- History: Itanagar is named after the Ita Fort – 'Ita' is Assamese for 'brick'. Believed to date from the 14th–15th century, the fort has about 16,200 cubic metres of brickwork and was probably built by the Chutiya kings.
- Ecology: the method developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki grows dense mini-forests quickly by planting native species close together. Cities including Chennai have built urban mini-forests this way.

Tamil Nadu link: The NDRF's 4th Battalion campus is at Thakkolam near Arakkonam, Ranipet district; teams were sent from its Arakkonam base during the 2015 Chennai floods, and teams are kept on standby there in the monsoon. The Greater Chennai Corporation has created Miyawaki mini-forests at places such as Kotturpuram.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the campus of the 12th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at Hollongi, near Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh, on 22 November 2026.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: Inauguration of NDRF 12th Battalion campus; Date: 22 November 2026; Place: Hollongi, near Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh; Inaugurated by: Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

What is the background to this news?

NDRF: provided for by the Disaster Management Act (26 December 2005), it began in 2006 with 8 battalions and has grown to 16. Personnel are drawn from the BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB and Assam Rifles.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Hollongi, site of the new NDRF campus, also has Arunachal's first greenfield airport. What is it named?

A) Donyi Polo Airport

B) Pakyong Airport

C) Bir Tikendrajit Airport

D) Lengpui Airport

Answer: A – Explanation: Donyi Polo – opened by the PM in Nov 2022; Sun (Donyi), Moon (Polo). Pakyong is in Sikkim, Bir Tikendrajit at Imphal, Lengpui in Mizoram.

2. The Ita Fort, which gives Arunachal's capital Itanagar its name, is built mainly of what?

A) Granite

B) Bamboo

C) Timber

D) Bricks

Answer: D – Explanation: Bricks – 'Ita' is Assamese for brick. A 14th–15th-century fort with about 16,200 cubic metres of brickwork.

3. As per the NDRF's official website, how many battalions does the force now have?

A) 12

B) 16

C) 18

D) 20

Answer: B – Explanation: 16 – it began with 8 in 2006. Each has 1,149 personnel in 18 search-and-rescue teams of 47.

4. Shah suggested a Miyawaki forest on the campus. The method, also used in Chennai, originated in which country?

A) China

B) South Korea

C) Japan

D) Singapore

Answer: C – Explanation: Japan – devised by botanist Akira Miyawaki; native species are planted close together to grow a dense mini-forest quickly.

5. Near which Tamil Nadu town is the NDRF's 4th Battalion based?

A) Arakkonam

B) Tambaram

C) Hosur

D) Sriperumbudur

Answer: A – Explanation: Arakkonam – the campus is at nearby Thakkolam (Ranipet district). Teams go from here to disasters in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring States.