

The President's Bodyguard (PBG)

October 29, 2022

In news- The President of India has presented the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the President's Bodyguard in a ceremony recently.

Origin of President's Bodyguard-

- It is the **oldest regiment in the Indian Army, having been raised as the Governor-General's Bodyguard** (later the Viceroy's Bodyguard) in 1773.
- The regiment was **raised in Banaras (Varanasi) by the then Governor-General, Warren Hastings.**
- It had an initial strength of 50 handpicked **cavalry troopers from the so-called Moghal Horse**, which was raised by two local sardars Sirdar Mirza Shahbaz Khan & Sirdar Khan Tar Beg in 1760.
- On January 27, 1950, the **regiment was renamed the President's Bodyguard.**
- Today, the President's Bodyguard is a mounted unit comprising a select body of hand-picked men with special physical attributes. They are chosen after a rigorous and physically gruelling process.
- The President's Bodyguard has seen **war-time duty and a detachment currently serves on the Siachen Glacier.** Its men have served with the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka and as part of UN Peace-Keeping Missions.

Silver Trumpet and Banner-

- As the President of India's own Guard, it has the **unique distinction of being the only military unit of the Indian Army that is privileged to carry the President's Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner.**

- **This distinction was conferred on the President's Bodyguard in 1923 by the then Viceroy, Lord Reading,** on the occasion of the Bodyguard completing 150 years of service.
- Each succeeding Viceroy, thereafter, presented the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the Bodyguard.
- **Every President has continued the practice of honouring the regiment.**
- Rather than a coat of arms, as was the practice in the colonial era, the **monogram of the President appears on the Banner.**
- Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, presented the Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the President's Bodyguard on May 14, 1957.